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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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COLLECTIONS

OF THE

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1860.

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1861.

Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D.

1865.

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1866.

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1867.

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1869.

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1871.

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1877.

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1878.

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Rev. Egbert Coffin Smyth, LL.D.

1883.

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1884.

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1886.

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1889.

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Thornton Kirkland Lothrop, LL.B.
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1890.

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Abbott Lawrence Lowell, LL.B.

1891.

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1893.

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1895.

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1896.

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1897.

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Lt. Col. William Roscoe Livermore.
Hon. Richard Olney, LL.D.
Lucien Carr, A.M.
James Schouler, LL.D.

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1899.

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John Noble, LL.D.
Charles Pickering Bowditch, A.M.
Rev. Edward Henry Hall, D.D.

1900.

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Melville Madison Bigelow, LL.D.
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1871.

David Masson, LL.D.

1880.

Theodor Mommsen.

1882.

Rt. Hon. William Edward Hartpole Lecky, LL.D.

1887.

Hon. Carl Schurz, LL.D.

1896.

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1899.

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1902.

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1864.

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1870.

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1875.

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John Franklin Jameson, LL.D.

1899.

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1900.

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Reuben Gold Thwaites, Esq.
John Christopher Schwab, Ph.D.
Worthington Chauncey Ford, Esq.

MEMBERS DECEASED.

Members who have died, or of whose death information has been received, since the last volume of Collections was issued, July 10, 1902, arranged in the order of their election, and with date of death.

Resident.

Hon. Horace Gray, LL.D. . . . . Sept. 15, 1902.
Charles Greely Loring, A.M. . . . . Aug. 18, 1902.

[The Resident Membership of Worthington Chauncey Ford, Esq., was terminated, Oct. 10, 1902, by his removal from Massachusetts, and that of Arthur Blake Ellis, LL.B., was terminated, Dec. 11, 1902, by the same cause.]

Corresponding.

Joseph Williamson, Litt. D. . . . . Dec. 4, 1902.

PREFACE.

THIS volume completes the selection from the hitherto unpublished letters and documents of the Revolutionary period contained in the Trumbull Papers. In offering these papers to the Massachusetts Historical Society David Trumbull, the Governor's third son, wrote for himself and the other heirs: "My father, the late Governor Trumbull, collected with care the most important official papers which passed through his hands during the very interesting period of the Revolution, with the intention that they should be preserved and deposited in some public library as materials for future historians." There is some reason for thinking that the Governor's views extended even further than this, and that at one time he meditated preparing a History of America himself, or at least had planned such a work, to be executed by another hand. In a letter to Trumbull, whom he had visited at Hartford, the French minister Luzerne wrote, immediately after his arrival in Philadelphia: "J'ai lû avec un grand intérêt le plan d'histoire de l'Amérique que vous avez bien voulu me communiquer. Ceux qui aiment la saine politique, et ceux qui aiment les lettres doivent également faire des vœux pour son exécution, et en mon particulier je désire bien vivement que votre

Exellence veuille s'en occuper." It seems probable that the copies of letters received or written by Trumbull were made and grouped in his Letter Books under his direction for such a purpose, which was afterward relinquished.

Besides this, it is well known that Governor Trumbull had in his possession for a long time the manuscript of Winthrop's History of New England, and that he copied a considerable part of it himself. This copy is now in the possession of the Historical Society. Two letters referring to it, which have not been printed before, are in the Trumbull Papers, and are inserted here for the interesting light which they throw on the Governor's character and historical tastes.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

LEBANON, 29th March, 1784.

SIR, — I have in my possession two vols of his Excellency John Winthrop, Esqr, the first and truly worthy Governor of Massachusetts, his historical diary of the first beginnings of that commonwealth, Mar. 30th, 1630, to Decem., 1644, written in an old hand, now difficult to read. There are many curious things in it. Enclosed is a specimen sent for your observations, to be returned when you have done with it. If the whole were printed, it would be both useful and entertaining to the public. Should the Society of Arts think proper to publish it by subscription, I doubt not it would meet with sutable encouragment. I have the greatest part of it transcribed fit for the press. It contains 532 pags in quarto.

I have received no letter from my son John, nor any information concerning him, since he sailed. Is there no late arrival from London? Is there any to sail thither from Boston soon?

I wish for the last catalogue of Cambridge College.

I am with great esteem & regard, Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

Honble JAMES BOWDOIN, Esqr.

P. S. Enclosed the subscription.

M^R^ Little, — Please buy for me A Hebrew Gramar wrote by the Professor of the Oriental Languages at Cambridge. Two papers best ink powder.

Indorsed: 30^th^ March, 1784. To Hon^ble^ J. Bowdoin, Esq^r^, *de* Winthrop's Diary. Sent ℔ M^r^ Little.

JAMES BOWDOIN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To his Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r^, Governor of the State of Connecticutt, at Lebanon. By favour of M^r^ Little.

Boston, April 9, 1784.

Sir, — Your favour of y^e^ 29^th^ ult^o^ I received by M^r^ Little, with the extract-specimen from Gov^r^ Winthrop's historical diary. I read part of it to several gentlemen, one of whom at his request having had the loan, has read y^e^ whole of it.

Judging of y^e^ history by this specimen, he thinks there are many things in it too minute for publication, but that if y^e^ material & most curious parts of it were judiciously selected they might make an entertaining volume. If you should be of that mind, will you give me leave to recommend it to your Excellency, in case you can attend to it, to make such a selection ; or if not, to procure some judicious gentlemen to undertake it. When prepared, proposals for printing it by subscription might be published. In this way it would appear to y^e^ best advantage, and might meet with encouragement.

As soon as I received your letter, I sent to M^r^ Russel, the owner of y^e^ vessel in which your son went passenger to England, and he informs me he has not had any intelligence concerning her since she sailed, but expects to hear of her arrival by y^e^ next vessels from thence. Capt. Calahan will sail for London in about a week, and another vessel some time after.

Agreably to your desire I inclose y^e^ last printed catalogue of those educated at Harvard College, and am, with great regard, Sir,

Y^r^ Ex̄cy's most ob^t^, hble. servt.

James Bowdoin.

His Ex̄cy [*torn*] Trumbull.

James Bowdoin was one of the founders of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of which he was President from its organization in 1780 until his death in 1790. Governor Trumbull was one of the Fellows. It

does not appear from the records of the Academy that the suggestion as to publishing Winthrop's History was ever formally brought before that body. Governor Trumbull died in August, 1785; and it was not until 1790 that the History was printed, for the first time, from another copy, made by John Porter, Trumbull's Secretary. At that time it was not known that a continuation of the History was in existence. The complete work was first published by the late Hon. James Savage in 1825, a few years after the discovery of a third manuscript volume in the tower of the Old South Meeting-house, in Boston. It had remained buried there for nearly two generations, having probably been borrowed by Rev. Thomas Prince from some member of the Winthrop family as early at least as 1755.

Some further account of the papers now printed was given in the Preface to the Third Part of the Trumbull Papers, and it remains only to repeat the sense of loss which the Committee felt in the death of their associate, George B. Chase, when only a part of the present volume was in type.

For the Committee,

CHARLES C. SMITH.

Boston, December 15, 1902.

THE TRUMBULL PAPERS.

PART IV.

THE TRUMBULL PAPERS.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan^{y} 6th, 1780.

SIR, — I am honoured with your Excellency's two letters of the 13th ult^{o} with the papers to which they refer.

Agreable to your Excellency's request I have caused one of the lists of the Bonds transmitted to be endorsed, which is herewith enclosed.

I have the honour to forward by Brown two dozen blank commissions with instructions and bonds.

By late letters I have received from Amsterdam it is abundantly evident that your Excellencies correspondence, as also that of Governor Livingston, with Baron V. D. Capellen, hath enlighten'd & undeceived many people in Holland, & produced many friends & favourable sentiments with respect to the cause in which we are engaged. I hope Congress will take some honourary notice of the Baron.

I am told N. Jersey have just passed a law appointing proper persons to purchase all articles of provision & forage for the army which that State can supply. I was in hopes to procure the act & send it forward by Brown. I believe a regulation of that kind will be generally adopted, & cannot but hope it may be attended with beneficial consequences to the public. I have directed

* For notice of Samuel Huntington, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 231 *n.* — EDS.

M^r Brown, if he can obtain the above mentioned act in the Jerseys, to take it with him.

I am favour'd with intelligence on which we place dependance that the late embarkation from N. York, on the 23^d & 26^th ulto., had troops on board to the amount of 5,000 effective men, their destination unknown & no intelligence has been received of them since they sailed.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Exc^y's hble. servt.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

P. S. The papers formerly sent to M^r Laurens were deliver^d to a Committee of which he was one; I called on him for them before his departure; he deliverd me some of them; the whole I have not been able to collect, but shall continue my search, & if I can recover them will do my self the honour to forward them immediately to your Excellency. M^r Laurens told me he met with great difficulty to get them translated: few persons here understand the low Dutch, your last letter from the Baron, I procured a Dutch clergyman, about eight miles from this city to translate; he appears perfect master of the Dutch language, but does not write English elegantly, tho' I believe gives the litteral sense with exactness.

I am, ut supra. S. H.

GOV^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 6^th Jany, 1780. President Huntington, *de* Sundry, rec^d p Brown, 21^st inst.

ROGER SHERMAN* TO ANDREW ADAMS.†

To the Hon^ble Andrew Adams, Esq^r, Speaker of the House of Assembly, at Hartford.

PHILADELPHIA, January 7^th, 1780.

SIR, — I obtain'd last evening an account of the prices of the several articles, as stated by the late law of the

* For notice of Roger Sherman, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 25 *n.* — EDS.

† For notice of Andrew Adams, see *Ibid.*, p. 256 *n.* — EDS.

State of New Jersy, which is to be in force the first of next month, which I have enclosed. I am informed the law is absolutely to take effect at the time fixed, without any proviso in case the other States do not make similar laws. The State of Maryland has likewise passed a law for the regulation of prices. New York Assembly is called on purpose to consider of the matter. The Commissioners from several of the States that were present met last evening, pursuant to the recommendation of the Hartford Convention, viz., two from New Hamshire, two from Connecticut, one from New Jersy, and one for Pennsylvania, M^r^ L'Homedieu was also present from the State of New York, but he says their Assembly made no special appointment for this convention, & supposes he has no right to act. I dont hear that any other States have appointed members. I believe they expected that the resolutions of Congress would supersede the necessity of this convention, so that I dont think it will be of any advantage for the Assembly to wait, in expectation of having a report from this convention, for I believe there will be none.

M^r^ Bryan informed us that a great majority of the Assembly of this State were in favour of a regulation of prices before they adjourned; they meet again the 19^th^ of this month. I should think since the press is stopt it would not be difficult to reduce prices as low as twenty for one. Some people are much afraid the money will soon appreciate very rapidly, and be attended with more pernicious effects than the depreciation has been. It appears to me that it is of great importance to have its value fixed & stable. We have no news here but what is contained in the public papers.

I am, with great esteem & regard,

Your humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

The Hon. ANDREW ADAMS, Esq^r^.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. His Excellency The Governor of Connecticut. S. Huntington.

PHILADELPHIA, 8 Jan^{y}, 1780.

SIR, — By the act of Congress of the 7th instant enclos'd, I am directed to address your Excellency and express their apprehension on account of the small supply of beef for the present necessities of the army, & to request the immidiate aid of the Legislature of Connecticut to the Commissary General or his Assistant in procuring & forwarding the same.

The present necessity of the army is truly pressing & alarming, & the matter of supplies seems to admit of no delay. The army are, it is said, without meat. The Commissary will forward a sum of money immediately to Connecticut to purchase supplies; in the meantime it is most earnestly requested that the Legislature of Connecticut will lend the necessary aid to the Commissary to forward a quantity of beef with all possible dispatch. Congress are using every endeavour to lessen the public expence & the quantity of provision as much as possible, consistant with the public safety; and if the supplies can be obtained for the present, it is to be hoped from the measures that are adopted it may be less difficult to obtain supplies in future.

I have the honour to be, with perfect respect,
Your Excy's hble. servt.
SAM^{LL} HUNTINGTON, *President.*

His Exc^{y} Gov^{r} TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 8th Jan^{y}, 1780. President Huntington, *de* forwarding Beef, rec^{d} 21st ins^{t}.

REPORT OF LEVI WELLS AND PHINEAS BRADLEY, JR.*

Messrs James Wadsworth, M: G: Andrew Ward, Brigadier Generl.

New Haven, Janry 11th, 1780.

Gentlemen, — In compliance with your request we yesterday made an assay on the powder belonging to this State and made at the Mill in New Haven belonging to Messrs Doolittle & English. 'Twas propos[d] trying the powder made about the time with that so much complained of, accordingly we took some that was dealt out from s[d] Mill in July last, to Capt Phineas Bradley & been in his custody ever since. As we were not under advantages to make the most nice & curious assays, mathematically to determine the exact strength of the powder, we contented ourselves with the following experiments with a double fortified four pounder, wt 12 cwt : 3 : 4, which with three quarters of a degree elevation from an horizontal level & 1¾ powder carried a 4lb ball to ye distance of one hundred & eighty nine rods over ye ice. A second shot made from about the middle of ye Long Wharf, with an elevation of 17 degrees & like quantity of powder carried the ball to a considerable distance below the fort into the cove, as the spectators placed at ye fort for observation inform. We saw several more shot made on a great depression of the piece, & on the

* Levi Wells, of Colchester, was commissioned as a Captain in General Spencer's regiment May 1, 1775. He was afterward a Major in Colonel Wyllys's regiment, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Long Island in August, 1776. After his exchange he again entered the army, and was taken prisoner again at Horseneck in December, 1780. (See Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, pp. 50, 107, 615.) Phineas Bradley, Jr., of New Haven, had command of a company of artillery for a short service at three different periods. (See *Ibid.*, pp. 546, 551, 559.) — Eds.

whole were fully satisfied that the powder was not deficient in regard to strength.

With esteem, we are your most obed^{t}, humble serv^{ts}.

LEVI WELLS.

PHINEAS BRADLEY, JUN^{R}.

Mess^{rs} WADSWORTH & WARD.

Indorsed: 11th Jan^{y}, 1780. L^{t} Col^{o} Wells & Cap^{t} Bradley, *de* M^{r} Doolittle's Powder, rec^{d} from Gen^{l} Wadsworth, 2nd Mar., 1780.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esquire, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Hartford.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan^{y} 11th, 1780.

SIR, — Enclosed is an Act of the Assembly of the State of New Jersy for procuring supplies. We are informed that the army have lately been at very short allowance of both bread and meat. Their principal dependance is on Connecticut for beef. I wish there might be the most vigorous exertion to furnish a present supply. The Commisary General informs me that he sent to your Excellency 200,000 dollars for that purpose; he will be furnished with a further sum and intends to come that way himself very soon. Stopping the press occasions a scarcity of money. The States, I believe, are now collecting their taxes; but if they done [don't?] keep the money collected for the continent seperate from that collected for their own use there will be danger of a deficiency of supplies to answer the warrants drawn by Congress, which may be attended with dangerous consequences. Commissioners are arrived from Maryland to attend the convention to consider of a limitation of prices. I was informed some weeks ago by one of the delegates of that State that the Assembly had passed a law for the limitation of prices, & he shewed me an abstract of the Act; but it proves to be a mistake. A

bill was prepared but not enacted into a law; and the Assembly is adjourned till March next. Whe [we] hear nothing from Virginia or Delaware respecting that measure; nor do I learn that any persons are appointed by Massachusetts Bay or Rhode Island to meet in Convention. We have reports that a forty gun ship & several others of the British fleet that lately sailed from New York were cast away on the N. Jersey shore; it was said that one of them was the Roe buck, but that is contradicted to-day. We have no foreign news here.

I am, with great regard,
Your Excellency's obedient,
humble servant,
ROGER SHERMAN.

P. S. I wish to have another Delegate come and relieve me; for I want very much to return home.

R. S.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 11th Jany, 1780. Hon° R. Sherman, *de* Supplies for the Army. Limitation Act, &c., rec^d 26th inst, p M^r Devotion.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. His Excellency The Governor of Connecticut. S. Huntington.

PHILADELPHIA, January 12th, 1780.

SIR, — You will receive herewith enclos'd an Act of Congress of this day, together with extracts of three letters to which the Act refers. These I am directed to lay before the Legislature of Connecticut or in their recess before your Excellency in Council, as also the other States therein mentioned, and to urge in the most pressing manner that immediate supplies of provision be by those several States sent to the army.

After the facts stated in the papers enclos'd perswasion & importunity seems unnecessary. The army must soon

disband unless supplied with provision. That cannot be obtained at the present conjuncture of affairs without the aid of the several States called upon. The country abounds with the necessary rescources, but private gain seems the only object of too many individuals without any concern for the public safety.

Congress have taken proper measures to have justice done those States that shall afford present supplies. The exertions of New Jersey are already called forth on this occasion. Must it be said that our army disbanded for want of provisions in the midst of plenty?

Since the resignation of Commissary Wadsworth the aid of the States is absolutely necessary to afford supplies until such time as matters are p[ut] in a proper train, which I trust [will] not be long.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excy's hble. servt.

SAM. HUNTINGTON, *President.*

His Excy. Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 12^th^ Jan^y^, 1780. President Huntington, *de* Supplies to the Army, rec^d^ p express, 22^nd^ inst, vespere.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan^y^ 14, 1780.

SIR, — Congress have no late intelligence from Europe, nor do they yet learn the destination of the troops lately embarked from New York.

Four American Colonels, Magaw, Ely, &c., are out from New York on short parole, with propositions drawn up by them & General Philips of the Convention troops, for a general exchange of prisoners, which bids fair to take place on the plan now proposed. It is referred by Congress to Gen^l^ Washington, with power to take measures thereon at his discretion.

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* For notice of Oliver Ellsworth, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. II. p. 290 *n*. — EDS.

Much credit is due & given to Connecticut for the supply of beef said to be coming on from thence to the army, whose distress has been great & setuation yet remains critical for want of provisions. Eight dollars have been given in its vicinity by the soldiers for a quart of meal & half a dollar for an ear of corn. Flour & grain are procured sufficient, it is said, for some months & now forwarding as fast as may be; & every attention will in future be paid to furnish money for the beef department.

The failure of that great resource, the press, gives as was expectable a violent shock, but it is hoped will prove a salutary one. The system of taxation urged by necessity is now establishing itself fast. All the States in the Union, so far as I can be informed, are now levying & collecting, pursuant to the requisitions of Congress, tho' in some of them their Assemblies have not yet been together to consider of the quotas last required. Maryland Assembly has indeed lately been together & adjourned without making provision therefor, owing to their not being able to obtain a vote in the Senate for the sale of British & Tory property. But as they have called on their people at large to shew their sense on that question, & are soon to meet again, there is no doubt of that obstacle's being removed & that Maryland will chearfully & fully furnish her quota. She is now making every exertion to supply the army with bread.

Greater unanimity has at no time perhaps prevailed in Congress than at present, or ever been more necessary.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, with very great respect,
Your Excellency's most obed^{t}
& most hum^{l} serv^{t}.
OLIV^{R} ELLSWORTH.

Governor TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 14th Jan^{y}, 1780. Hon^{o} Ol. Elsworth, *de* sundry, rec^{d} p M^{r} Devotion, 1st Feb^{ry}, 80.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan^{y} 30th, 1780.

SIR, — Since the letter M^{r} Sherman & myself did ourselves the honor of addressing to your Excellency by the last post, a commissioner has arived from Massachusetts to attend the Convention for a limitation of prices, which had adjourned sine die, also a commission from Rhode Island to their delegate in Congress to the same purpose. Upon which the Assembly of Pensylvania, to whom their commissioners had made report, have reappointed others, to meet again ; & a meeting has been thereupon had from commissioners of all the States who attended before, except New Jersey, with the addition of Massachusetts & Rhode Island, at which also the delegates in Congress from N. York attended, tho' not specially authorised & gave assurance that their State would abide the measures that might be come into. The Convention having again formed now stands adjourned to Wednesday next, for N. Jersey commissioners, who are sent to, to come in ; the result of which meeting will perhaps be a further adjournment to a distant day, to give Virginia, who has not yet done it, oppertunity to appoint & send commissioners. It does not appear indeed what more can well be done at this time, as some of the commissioners present are not authorised to do any thing, unless the Convention should be attended from all the States at first proposed.

In return for Lord Sterling's late expedition to Staten Island, a party of the enemy, consisting of one hundred horse & four hundred foot, last week surprised the out guards at Elizabeth Town & Newark & made four officers

& about sixty men prisoners, & burned some publick buildings at both places.

The supplies & prospects of the army are now comfortable. The General was reduced to the necessity of demanding from the several Counties in N. Jersey specifick supplies, which with much spirit they complyed with, even beyond the requisition. Maryland is said also to have fully complyed with the requisition of Congress to that State for 15,000 barrels of flour. Delaware has als[o] exerted herself much in the same way; the Assembly of the State are now together & seem disposed to furnish the 50,000 barrels of flour requested of them, as also to go into such further specifick supplies as may be necessary.

South Carolina, justly apprehensive of her danger, is arming three regiments of blacks. It is highly probable, unless the embarkation from New York should have blown to the West Indies or suffered much in the storm, that we shall soon hear of an attack on Charlestown, tho' I trust there will be a defence sufficient at least to render it a serious one. The town scituated on a neck less than one mile across & not commanded by heights is defensible & well fortified on the land side; the entrance of the harbour being very narrow is secured by a number of frigates, which are the largest ships that can come over the bar without taking out their guns. Continental troops and militia are now marching southward, but may not arive in season for the enemy's first attempts. That policy which has long since directed the enemy to carry their operations & efforts southward seems now to be attending to, & there is much reason to expect that the active part of the next campaign will be in that quarter.

I take the liberty to mention to your Excellency that the scituation of my affairs renders it necessary for me to return home by the begining of March, & to express my wishes that some of the gentlemen on the new election

may find it convenient to take their seats in Congress by that time.

I am, Sir,
with the highest respect & esteem,
Your Excellency's most obed. servt.
OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 30th January, 1780. Hono Oliver Elsworth, Esqr, *de* Intelligence. His return. recd 23d Feby, 80.

JOHN TRUMBULL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

BOSTON, 5th February, 1780.

HONd SIR, — Since my arrival in town, I have inquir'd the price of indigo in foreign markets, in consequence of your mentioning the exportation of what belongs to the State, and find that it will answer well in France and Holland. I have likewise inquir'd upon what terms I can have it freighted, and am offer'd a fast sailing sloop of 10 or 12 guns, at a moderate freight. But as I suppose the State might not choose so much hazard, I have some prospect of getting it on board a very fine new ship of 16 guns, suppos'd to be the best built for sailing of any ship in N. England. But as she was intended for Virginia to take on board tobacco, the owners will not alter their plan, unless they receive a little more than the ordinary freight, which for bulky articles is as high as 40 & 50 pr ct, and less as the bulk is smaller in proportion to the weight. I suppose therefore, that $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ at most will tempt the owners to change their plan.

Upon these conditions I have no doubt but the State will find great advantage in the voyage. I wish it may be propos'd to the Council, and if they see fit to adopt

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* For notice of John Trumbull, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. II. p. 261 *n*. — EDS.

the plan, and entrust me with the agency, I am confident I shall be able to supply them in return with military cloathing, woollens and linnen to greater advantage than most men whom they can employ, as I have an intelligence of a mode by which 30 or 40 p^{r} cent upon the purchases may be sav'd, in preference of the common Holland or French market. At the same time that the commissions will be of some service to my private affairs.

I write this by the post, and intend to be in Hartford next week, in hope of a favourable event of this proposal.

We have no news in town. Convention are sitting upon the Constitution, but it will not probably be laid before the people sooner than next summer.

I am, Sir,

With the most dutifull affection and gratitude,

Your Son,

JOHN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

P. S. I find from some of my friends that my private affairs have the fairest prospect of success.

PROCEEDINGS OF A CONVENTION TO REGULATE PRICES.

IN CONVENTION, February 7th, 1780.

Whereas at a meeting of the several States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Providence Plantations, Connecticut & New York, holden at Hartford, in Connecticut, on the 20th day of October, 1779, It was then

Resolved, that a Convention of Commissioners from the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, & Virginia be requested to meet at Philadelphia on the first Wednesday of January, then next, for the purposes of consider-

ing the expediency of limiting the prices of merchandize & produce.

And whereas in consequence thereof Commissioners have met in Convention from the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, & Maryland;

And whereas the State of New York has not met since the adjournment of the Convention at Hartford, but did previously authorize her delegates to pledge the faith of the State for carrying into effect a general plan for regulating prices if recommended by Congress, & this Convention has the fullest assurance that the measures which they may adopt will be agreed to by the said State;

And whereas it is the opinion of this Convention that any measures for regulating prices adopted without the concurrence of all the States proposed by the Convention at Hartford might prove ineffectual,

Therefore Resolved,

That the President be desired to inform the Governor of Virginia of the proceedings of this Convention, & request him to give the earliest notice of the determinations of said State with respect to the appointment of Commissioners to meet this Convention.

Resolved that the State of New York be in like manner informed of the proceedings of this Convention, & be requested to appoint Commissioners to meet the same at their adjournment.

Resolved that a Committee be appointed to form a general plan for the limitation of prices in the several States & report the same at the next meeting of this Convention.

Resolved, that the President, M^{r} Ellery, M^{r} Gerry, M^{r} Paca, & M^{r} Henry of Pennsylvania be a Committee for the purpose aforesaid.

Present:

New Hampshire	{ Mr Fulsom, Mr Peabody.
Massachusetts	{ Mr Gerry, Mr Osgood.
Rhode Island	Mr Ellery.
Connecticut	{ Mr Sherman, Mr Ellsworth.
Pennsylvania	{ Mr Henry, Mr Bull.
Delaware	Mr Vandyke.
Maryland	Mr Henry.

Adjourned to Tuesday, 6 o'clock, P. M.

Tuesday, Febv 8th. Then met according to adjournment.

Resolved, that the adjournment of this Convention be to the fourth day of April next, to meet at the State House in the City of Philadelphia.

And it was accordingly adjourned.

Extract from the Minutes.

Attest. Samuel Osgood, *Secy*.

Indorsed by Mr. Osgood: Mr Sherman; and by Gov. Trumbull: Meets of Comissioners for consids Limitation of Prices. Adjd 'till 4th Apl, 1780.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE DELEGATES IN CONGRESS FROM CONNECTICUT.

Lebanon, 10th March, 1780.

Gentlemen, — In compliance with a Resolution of Congress the Genl Assembly of this State have appointed a Committee to inquire into the conduct of the officers of the Commissary's and Quarter Master's departments within the same, who are to report to the sessions in May next.

The Resolutions of Congress of the 1st January last, respecting the Commissary General's department are likewise received; their several provisions noticed. The Assembly, however, have not seen fit to appoint an Assistant Commissary as the allowance of two pr cent for the payment of himself and all his agents, and to defray all their contingent expenses is, by us, conceiv'd to be small to make any reasonable compensation for the trouble of the business. Of consequence the State must take upon themselves a very considerable expence (which may not be allow'd, as being incurr'd in violation of the plans of Congress), or otherwise the business must be committed to such men as no private person would willingly entrust with his concerns. For on the present footing it does not appear that any *honest man* can undertake it. The return of monthly accts is another intolerable embarrassment, and after all can be but a very poor check upon any man who is dispos'd to defraud the public; for the paths of villainy are too many, too open, and too well studied (not to mention the present inevitable opportunities) for a real villain to be even paus'd by such a measure. Your only resource therefore is to employ *honest men*, as few of them as possible, and reward them so generously as to leave them little temptation to fraud. The labourer is well worthy of his hire; and the only consequence of penuriousness in rewards is villainy, deception, and discontent in servants.

Congress surely have not so soon forgotten the unhappy events which brought on the necessity of feeding an army from hand to mouth, and the consequent excessive prices so detrimental to the interest of this country. The similarity of our present situation to that almost fatal crisis gives me the most anxious dread of the approaching sufferings of the army. Permit me to add to this list of illbodings and misfortunes the failure of payment of old debts, which necessarily disables the fattners of

cattle from going on to furnish supplies to the army, and to my mind presents no pleasing prospect of futurity.

Ye are sensible that meats of different kinds are what this State principally supplys. The Assembly therefore have not made provision for eight thousand barrels of flour requested by Congress. It is not an article to be exported from this country in any quantities; however, we may take measures for furnishing the best supply in our power.

As one step towards "introducing a stable currency and medium of commerce," and to open the way for a free exercise of comutative justice, will it not be well for the Hon^{ble} Congress to make requisitions to the several States in the Union to call in by taxes or loan their respective quotas of the common currency of the United States (so far as can at present be adjusted) at such rates of exch^{a} as each State shall think reasonable (and which we judge to be 30 for one), and for the several States to introduce a currency in cash, duly funded and properly guarded against depreciation, sufficient for internal exigencies, and to answer the necessary demands from Congress, — the present currency when collected not to reissue, but be destroyed.

And is it not time to establish the value of Loan Certificates equal to the value of the currency at the times when deposited, and to form tables by which to regulate and ascertain their value and payment.

I am, &c.

J. Trumbull.

Indorsed: No. 10. Delegates in Congress. 10th March, 1780.

PETITION OF JOHN WINTHROP.*

To his Excellency the Gov^r & Council of Safety for the State of Connecticut:

The petition of John Winthrop of New London humbly sheweth, That for several years past he has been in an ill state of health, during which time he has applied to the most emminent physicians in this & the neighbouring States, from whom he has received little or no benefit, except from one D^r Middleton who then was and still remains in the city of New York. By him your pet^r obtaind relief, and being now advised by his physicians to travel to the southward for a change of air proposes to take a journey as far as Virginia.

Having been heretofore helped by D^r Middleton, and being anxious if possible to obtain that far greatest of all temporall blessings, *Health*, being still in early life, your pet^r earnestly wishes to obtain permission to pass through the city of New York on his way to Virginia, that he may have the advice of a physician who your pet^r concieves to be emminent in his profession, and one who haveing repeatedly known his case and afforded him relief, gives him the strongest assurances that he can again be of emminent service to him.

And he, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOHN WINTHROP.

NEW LONDON, 11^th March, 1780.

Indorsed: 11^th March, 1780. M^r John Winthrop's Petition to travel & pass thro N. York to see D^r Middletown. The pet^r in an ill state of health, rec^d p M^r Tho^s Winthrop, 13^th inst.

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* This petition was presented at a full meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety March 20, 1780, and permission granted April 11. (See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 509.) John Winthrop was the eldest child of John Still Winthrop, and was born in New London, Conn., July 20, 1751, graduated at Harvard College in 1770, and died in New York, unmarried, Nov. 15, 1780. — EDS.

PETITION OF JOHN WINTHROP.*

To his Excellency the Gov^r & Council of Safety for the State of Connecticut.

The petition of John Winthrop of New London humbly sheweth, That he is the proprietor of the Island of Fisher's Island which though a valuable estate yet at this day affords him little or no profits, That in the summer season past the buildings on the Island were all burn'd & destroyed; since which the Island having been left desolate is constantly plundered of the wood, &c., your petitioner would therefore wish, merely for the preservation of his property, to obtain leave for Elijah Brown & his family to return to & tarry on the Island, (as your petitioner proposes to erect a small building of brick, large enough only to serve as a shelter for them) & to carry on two yoak of oxen & three cows, which is all your petitioner would ask for, except a few necessaries that they may live comfortable.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall erver pray.

JOHN WINTHROP.

NEW LONDON, 13th March, 1780.

Indorsed: 13th March, 1780. M^r John Winthrop, petition *de* Fisher's Island, rec^d 16th ins^t.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. R. Sherman.

PHILADELPHIA, 15th Mar., 1780.

SIR, — I have the hon^r to transmit to your Excellency an extract of a letter from the Council of the State of

* The two petitions of Mr. Winthrop were presented at the meeting of the Governor and Council March 20, and at that meeting the permission here asked for was granted, subject to "the consent of the authority and selectmen of the town of N. London," and provided that the person to be approved by them shall be "a friend to the United States, and one who has taken an oath of fidelity." See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 509. — EDS.

Massachusetts Bay, respecting the making good to the officers and soldiers of the army the original contract. And a resolution of Congress in answer thereto. Also a paper containing a recommendation for a general fast. Congress have for some time past had under consideration a plan for calling in the outstanding bills of credit, and introducing a stable medium of trade; it has been several times debated & recommitted. It was resumed yesterday in a committee of the whole and the principal parts of it pretty unanimously agreed to. I expect it will be compleated to-day or to-morrow. The Assembly of this State are waiting only for the completion of it. I have not time to state it to your Excellency, as Major Blackden, by whom I send this, is waiting; but it is similar to what I communicated in a former letter, with some improvements. We have no late news from Europe or the Southern States. I have the

honor to be, with great respect,
Your Excellency's obedient,
humble servant.
ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

PETITION OF EBENEZER BAILEY.*

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Connecticut.

The Memorial of Ebenezer Bailey, an inhabitant of the Island of Nantucket in the State of the Massachusetts Bay, humbly sheweth: —

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* At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety, March 26, 1780, permission was granted to Captain Bailey "to barter and exchange at Fairfield or Norwalk" certain specified articles of merchandise "for rye and indian corn, and such other articles as he may be permitted by the authority and selectmen of the towns where he shall trade, and also to purchase one barrel pork for his, said Bailey's, own use." See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 511. — EDS.

That your Excellency's Memoralist about three weeks since set of from the said Island in a small deck't boat with a small cargo, consisting of rum, sugar, molasses, rock salt, oyle and dry and pickel cod fish, and arrived yesterday at Norwalk in the State of Connecticut with the same;

That your Excellency's Memoralist upon his arrival aforesaid by enquiery finds that he cannot purchase and transport the produce of the country without first obtaining a permit from your Excellency for that purpose, by means whereof your Excellency's Memoralist is induced to beg leave to make a representation to your Excellency of the reasons of his coming into the State of Connecticut to barter away West India produce for the produce of the country. The inhabitants of s^{d} Island in general have been compelled, since the commencement of the present war, to risque their interest by water to the State of Connecticut, in order to procure provisions for their family consumption, by means of s^{d} Island's being barran and insufficient to produce even one quarter of a supply of provisions for the inhabitants thereof, and the great hazard of going to other parts to obtain a supply of provisions for the inhabitants of said Island;

That the severity of the winter past hath prevented the inhabitants from recieving the usual and common supplies of provisions, so that when your Excellency's Memoralist came from s^{d} Island there was many families almost entirely without bread and other necessaries of life, and the cargo is owned by about fifty families, and by them procured and shipped for the sole and only purpose of procuring provisions for family consumption and to save life;

That unless the inhabitants of s^{d} Island can obtain provisions for their relief, and that soon, they must perish and suffer for want thereof, and that your Excellency's Memoralist can assure your Excellency that he would

not troubled your Excellency with this application if it had not been for the extreme necessities of the inhabitants of s^{d} Island, and that the above representation is founded in truth and supported in some measure by an inhabitant of s^{d} Norwalk whose testimony is herewith transmitted to your Excellency.

That your Excellency's Memoralist hath conversed with the Civil Authority and Selectmen of s^{d} Norwalk upon the subject of bartring away his cargo for provisions who signify to him that his cargo is much wanted by the inhabitants of s^{d} Norwalk, and that they make no doubt but that provisions such as corn, rye, &c., may well be spared for it.

Whereupon your Excellency's Memoralist humbly prays your Excellency to take his unhappy and distressed case and situation of the inhabitants of s^{d} Island into your wise consideration, and grant him a permit to purchase and export provisions, such as Indian corn, rye, and one barrel of pork for his own use, and such other provisions as may be permitted, or in such other way grant him relief in the premises as your Excellency in your great wisdom shall judge proper, and he, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Dated at Norwalk, the 16th day of March, 1780.

Ebenezer Bailey.

I, Jonathan Seymore of Norwalk in the County of Fairfield in the State of Connecticut, Mariner, of lawful age, deposeth and saith that in his passage from the West Indies he was on or about the 17th day of Decem^{r}, 1779, cast away upon the Island of Nantucket, where he lived until some time the latter end of February, 1780, during which time he had great opportunities to hear the complaints and cries of the inhabitants of s^{d} Island for want of provisions, and bread corn especially, and this Deponant further saith that, from what he see and heard of the scarcity of provisions on s^{d} Island, he is well

assured that many must suffer if not soon supplied, and that he came passenger with Cap^{t} Bailey home, who, he is well satisfied, is a person of good character and a true friend to his country, and his representation of matters relative to the distresses of the people on s^{d} Island may be relied on for truth, and further this Deponant saith not.

Dated at Norwalk, this 17th day of March, 1780.

JONATHAN SEYMOUR.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, ss.
NORWALK, 17th March, 1780. } Personally appeared Jonth Seymour and made solem'n oath that the matters contained in the above decleration is justly and truly stated, according to his best understanding.

Before STEPHEN S^{T} JOHN, Justice of P^{c}.

We the subscribers, the Civil Authority and Selectmen of the Town of Norwalk in the County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, do hereby certify whom this may concern that Cap^{t} Ebenezer Baily, the signer of the memorial contained in this sheet of paper, hath applied to us for our opinion with respect to there being provisions to be spared from among the inhabitants of s^{d} Norwalk, on which we give it as our opinion that the inhabitants stand in want of his cargo and would be glad of an opportunity to part with rye and Indian corn for his articles, and that such provisions may be spared for that purpose, and we further certify that the within Deponant, Jonth Seymore, is a person of varacity and that credit ought to be given to what he declares.

Given under our hands, in Norwalk, the 16th day of March, A. D. 1780.

ELIP^{T} LOCKWOOD } *Justices of the peace.*

STEPHEN S^{T}JOHN, 2^{D}, }
HOOKER S^{T}JOHN, } *Selectmen of the Town of Norwalk.*
OZIAS MARVIN, }

Indorsed: 16th March, 1780. Civil Authority & Selectmen of Norwalk, *de* a Permit for Eben^{r} Bailey, Nantucket, rec^{d} p Cap^{t} Thorp, 23^{d} inst.

ROGER SHERMAN AND OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esquire, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

PHILADELPHIA, March 20th, 1780.

SIR, — The President will transmit to your Excellency the resolutions of Congress for sinking the continental bills of credit and issuing new bills on the credit of the several States, which we hope will be approved by your Excellency & the Honorable the General Assembly.

It was judged impracticable to carry on the war another year with the present currency, and no other plan has been proposed that appeared so likely to relieve us from the embarrassments of a fluctuating currency as that which has been adopted by Congress. The depreciation here has been at the rate of sixty for one and in the Southern States from forty to fifty. Neither the scarcity or the collection of taxes have had any effect to appreciate, or fix, its value. 'Tis apprehended that the new bills will be effectually secured against depreciation, from the smallness of the quantity to be in circulation, the funds provided for their redemption, the shortness of the period, and the payment of an annual interest. The preparing them under the direction of the Board of Treasury, and the insurance of payment by the United States in case any State shall by the events of the war be rendered incapable of redeeming them, will give them a currency throughout the United States and be a security against counterfeits.

This emission of bills will not only introduce a stable medium of trade, but increase the revenue the amount of five millions of dollars equal to specie. The six tenths of the bills to be emitted will enable the States to purchase the specific supplies called for by the resolution of

the 25th of February last, and the remaining four tenths will supply the continental Treasury for paying the army, &c., while the States are collecting in the old bills by taxes; and although it is recommended to collect in the continental bills by monthly assessments, it may be expedient to give the people an opportunity of paying the whole at one payment. It may also be expedient for the States to allow new bills to be exchanged for the old, that the old may be drawn out of circulation as soon as possible to prevent further imposition by counterfeits, and if there should be a scarcity of money people might be allowed to pay their rates in provisions, to be delivered at the magazines at the prices fixed by Congress. The new bills will be prepared and forwarded to the States as soon as possible.

We hear that the Honorable Assembly have ordered a new emission of bills. We beg leave to submit to your Excellency whether it will not be expedient to stop the issuing of them, and immediately adopt the plan recommended by Congress. We should be sorry to have that fail of the good effects expected from it by any act or omission on the part of the States. The same proportions are kept up in the present requisitions as in the resolution of the 7th of October last, wherein Connecticut is rated much too high, but hope that wont prevent her compliance, at least to the amount of her quota, which would be about one twelfth part, in case none of the States were disabled by the events of the war from raising their quotas. Perhaps her quota in present circumstances would be more than one eleventh part of the whole. Repeated assurances have been given by Congress that those States which do more than their proportion shall be equitably compensated.

There is a report before Congress for fixing the rate in specie at which the loan-office certificates shall be paid.

It is expected that a new regulation of the Quarter Mas-

ter's and other staff departments will soon be established on the most economical plans whereby much expence will be saved. They will be accommodated to the late regulation of making the purchases by the States. The prices of the specific articles to be furnished by the States were estimated at about 50 per cent above the prices in 1774. They include all expences of purchasing and delivering them into the magazines. The motives for adopting that measure were, the rendering the supplies more certain and equable among the States, and to prevent frauds & abuses, and the aid of the States in procuring supplies was found to be absolutely necessary.

By a letter from General Lincoln of the 22^{d} ultimo, we are informed that part of the British forces that left New York were landed on St. John's & James's Islands, near Charlestown, the numbers not ascertained, but he thinks there is a good prospect of making a succesful opposition to them. M^{r} Lawrence expected to sail for Europe the 26th of Feb^{y}.

We are, with the greatest respect,
Your Excellency's humble servants.

ROGER SHERMAN.
OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 20th March, 1780. Hon^{ble} Sherman & Elsworth, Esq^{rs}, *de* the resolve to extricate from a fluctuating medium, &c., rec^{d} 1st April, 1780, mane, p Brown.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, March 23, 1780.

SIR, — Permit me as a private citizen to express my wishes that the late resolutions of Congress on the subject of finance may meet your Excellency's approbation and support. Your Excellency must have long seen with

alarming apprehensions the crisis to which a continued depreciation of the paper currency would one day reduce our affairs. It is now, Sir, just at hand. Without more stability in the medium, & far more ample supplies in the treasury than for months past, it will be impossible for our military preperations to proceed, & the army must disband. The present moment is indeed critical, & if let slip the confusion & distress will be infinite. This, Sir, is percisely the point of time for the several Legislatures to act decidedly & in a manner that the world will forever call wise. It is now in their power by a single operation to give a sure establishment for publick credit, to realize the publick debt at its just value, &, without adding to the burdens of the people, to supply the treasury. To furnish one common ground to unite their exertions upon for the accomplishment of these great purposes, your Excellency will easily percieve to be the spirit & design of the resolutions above referred to. They speak a language too plain to need any comment. I will only add concerning them that they have been the product of much labor & discussion; and tho' some States may have reason for thinking they are not the best possible, yet they are the best Congress could agree upon; and should these be rejected I confess I do not well see on what ground the common exertions of the several States are to be united and continued hereafter.

Your Excellency will forgive me the very great freedom of this letter, and permit me the honor of subscribing myself,

With the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humb^{l} serv^{t}.

OLIV^{R} ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 23^{d} March, 1780. Hon^{ble} Ol. Elsworth, *de* sundry, rec^{d} 1st April seq., mane, p Brown.

ROGER SHERMAN AND OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, March 23d, 1780.

SIR, — We are honored with your Excellency's dispatches of the 10th instant, by Brown, and shall pay due attention to the several matters and instructions therein communicated.

In particular, with regard to debts due in Connecticut for beef purchased under the late Commissary General Wadsworth, we shall again urge in Congress, as we repeatedly have done, the necessity of furnishing money to discharge them. But, Sir, there have been many and urgent calls for money which it has been impossible for Congress, with a nearly exhausted treasury, to comply with; and the same difficulties will remain so long as the several States are dilatory in collecting their quotas of money, or when collected apply it to other purposes than the payment of continental warrants.

The reduction of the battalions in the continental army is a matter now before Congress, but is attended with difficulties. Tho' œconomy pleads strongly in favour of the measure, yet it is doubtful whether there will be sufficient time to adjust and settle an intire new arangement of the army before they may be called to take the field; and as every new arangement is also found to be a new source of discontent, it is the opinion of some to postpone this reduction until there shall be fewer other causes of discontent in the army than at present. It has also been observed that should the battalions not be reduced at this juncture, yet considerable savings may be made by the several States forbareing to fill up vacancies in their respective lines, which are already numerous

should they not become more so. Our endeavours however shall not be wanting to carry our instructions upon this head into effect.

It is with pleasure we observe, from the acts transmitted to us, that on the great and embarrased subject of the publick finances the leading sentiments of the Assembly of Connecticut are much the same as on full discussion have been assented to in Congress. And we entertain the more confidence from this consideration that the measures which Congress, after so much deliberation, have recommended will meet that concurrence and support from all the legislatures of these United States as is essential to attaining the ends therein proposed.

Congress have judged it expedient to continue Jesse Brown an express rider until their late establishment of posts shall have taken its effect and their further orders shall be given.

By a Delegate from South Carolina just arived we learn that Charlestown was safe on the 1^{t} instant, that the enemy who had occupied the adjacent islands had appeared for some days motionless, that the garrison were in good spirits, that the North Carolina brigade of continental troops had arived, & that the Virginia line were met on their march, tho' at the unexpected distance of four hundred miles.

We have the honor to be, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humb^{l} servants.

ROGER SHERMAN.

OLIV^{R} ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23^{d} March, 1780. Hon^{ble} Sherman & Elsworth, Esq^{rs}, Delegates at Congress, answer to mine of 10th ins^{t}, rec^{d} 1st April seq., mane, p Brown.

CHARLES THOMSON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILAD^A, March 23, 1780.

SIR, — I am honoured with your letter of the 10^th instant, accompanied with sundry state papers, for which I thank you and shall have them deposited in the office. My view is to have as compleat a collection of the public papers of every State as I can deposited here, where the delegates from the several States may have access to them, and as the governments are new and doubtless many experiments must be made in legislation before they can reach perfection, I would wish to have the first essays as well as those perfected by experience. The former may to a legislator in another State be almost as useful as the latter. They may serve as landmarks & teach him the folly of repeating or attempting a similar law in his own State, & thus by the experience of one benefit may redound to all.

I now enclose you the Journal of Congress for Feb^y last, and am, with due respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble serv^t.
CHA^s THOMSON.

His Excell^cy Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23^d March, 1780. Charles Thompson, Esq^r, Secret^y of Congress. Answer to mine of 10^th ins., *de* State Papers to be collected, rec^d 1^st April, 1780, mane, p Brown.

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* Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, was born in Ireland Nov. 29, 1729, and was brought to this country by his father in 1740. Here he was married to a sister of Benjamin Harrison of Virginia, and on the meeting of the first Congress, in 1774, he was unanimously elected its Secretary. This office he held until the organization of the government under the Constitution. He died in Lower Merion, Penn., Aug. 16, 1824. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. p. 97; Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 424, 425. — EDS.

DEPRECIATION OF THE CURRENCY.

The following rate of exchange from the 1st March, 1777, to the 28th Feby, 1778, is in proportion to the increase of paper currency in circulation above 25 million dollars.

And from March 1st, 1778, to March 1, 1780, at a progressive rate of depreciation in geometrical proportion to the time, the ratio or common multiplier for each month being 1,133 nearly.

1777, March	1,	at par		1779, Jany	1,	6,97
		Decimal		Feby	1,	7,89
April	1,	1,06		March	1,	8,94
May	1,	1,12		April	1,	10,14
June	1,	1,18		May	1,	11,48
July	1,	1,24		June	1,	13,
Augt	1,	1,30		July	1,	14,77
Septemr	1,	1,36		Aug.	1,	16,67
October	1,	1,42		Septr	1,	18,86
Novemr	1,	1,48		Octo	1,	21,37
Decr	1,	1,54		Novr	1,	24,23
				Decr	1,	27,46
1778, January	1,	1,60	1780, Jany		1,	31,13
Feb	1,	1,66		Feby	1,	35,30
	28,	1,71		March	1,	40,
March	1,	2				
April	1,	2,26				
May	1,	2,57				
June	1,	2,90				
July	1,	3,28				
Aug.	1,	3,72				
Septr	1,	4,22				
Octo	1,	4,78				
Novr	1,	5,42				
Decr	1,	6,15				

The end of depreciation.

Errors excepted.

ROGER SHERMAN.

March 23, 1780.

(Copy)

Indorsed by Gov. Trumbull: Rates of Exchange for Loan Office Certificates and Value of Bills, April 1st, 1780, sent Colo Williams p Mr Sherman, p Messenger Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Mat^w Griswold, Esq^r, &c., now at Norwich.

LEBANON, April 3^d, 1780.

GENT, — I have many applications in variety of instances for permits to carry out articles for various purposes, many of which I must think reasonable & cannot justly be denied, nor without great disquiet to the people. The present applications are from Cap^t Spencer of Somers, now or late a member of Assembly, for liberty to export to y^e Massachusetts or Providence a't 24 hundred of rye & rye flour for y^e purpose of obtaining salt, which he represents the people of y^e town to be in real distress for, & for some sugar & necessarys which they can't do without, nor get any other ways without great difficulty & inconvenience, if any way obtainable.

Another is from M^r W^m Rogers of this town, who has lived here some years on hire, is now removing to Richmond in Rhode Island State, where his father belongs, his term here being expired. He has nowhere else to go, has some stock, 10 or 12 head, & some provisions he wants to carry for his own consumption.

As the law is, I cannot regularly permit them without advice of Council. It appears to me the cases are both reasonable & sho'd readily give y^e permission requested, but not without your consent, & have therefore sent one of them to obtain your opinion, & wish you wo'd be pleased to give him all the dispatch consistent.

I am, Gent., with great esteem & regard,

Y^r most obed. h. serv^t.

JON^TH TRUMBULL.

P. S. Col. Williams is present & is fully of opinion that it is reasonable & proper to grant the permits above mentioned.

Hon^o M. GRISWOLD, Esq^r, &c., Members of the Council of Safety.

[*On the reverse of the foregoing letter is the answer.*]

Norwich, April, 3rd, 1780.

S^R^, — I have consulted with Col° Dyar, Col° Pitkin, Col° Root, & Cap^t^ Mumford upon the matters within mention^d^. Wee are all of opinion that a permit cannot be granted to Cap^t^ Spencer, &c., as pray^d^ for in the within application, consistent with the law & former resolutions in similar cases. But wee all are of opinion a permit ought to be granted to M^r^ Rogers to remove his stock.

I am, in behalf of myself & the rest of the Council present,

Your Excellencies humble serv^t^.

Matth^w^ Griswold.

To his Excellency Gov^r^ Trumbull.

Indorsed: 3^d^ April, 1780. Answer to Cap^t^ Spencer's & M^r^ Rogers's Applications for permits. Former negatived; the latter granted. 4^th^ inst^.

GEORGE CLINTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Poughkeepsie, May 1st, 1780.

Sir, — I have been honored with your Excellency's dispatch of the 10^th^ March last and its enclosures some time since.

Considering the embarrassed state of our public finances, and the unsurmountable difficulties which would attend the reducing them to order by any ordinary means, I cannot but approve the system adopted by your State; by which a due regard is paid to the public interest and individuals will sustain as little loss in this as by any other mode that could be devised and the public credit fixed on a more solid basis in future. I have the pleasure of assuring your Excellency that most of

* For notice of George Clinton, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 57 *n.* — Eds.

the gentlemen of this State whom I have had an opportunity of conversing with on the subject approve the measure.

I am fully persuaded, Sir, that your conduct towards M^r^ Jones * has been strictly consistent and proper. If the repeated notifications which your [Excellency ?] sent into the British lines did not reach him it is his misfortune. M^r^ Jones must be sensible that we cannot controul the enemy's officers within their lines; if they have kept from him information regularly conveyed and in which he was so much interested, it is to them he must apply for redress. Your Excellency will be pleased to accept my thanks for the trouble you have taken in this business and I shall be obliged in having the paroles of all the gentry forwarded to me when a convenient opportunity presents.

I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

GEO : CLINTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 1^st^ May, 1780. His Excel^y^ Gov^r^ Clinton. Answer to mine 10^th^ March ult. *de* Act of Finance. Judge Jones, Gentle^m^ of N. York paroles, rec^d^ 14^th^ inst.

NATHANAEL GREENE† TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

MORRISTOWN, 7^th^ May, 1780.

SIR, — The alarming crisis to which the state of our public affairs are drawing, for want of money to support the great departments of the army, is really distressing to every man who feels himself interested in the happiness and independence of these States. The Quarter Master's Department has been supported principally upon credit for six months past; the credit and influence

* Judge Thomas Jones, of New York, the Loyalist historian. He was a prisoner of war in Connecticut, and was exchanged for General Sillıman. — EDS.

† For notice of General Greene, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. II. p 270 *n*. — EDS.

of the officers are now exhausted; the demands of the service are numerous, and press hard for great exertions, especially in the article of transportation; the garrison at West Point, which is of such vast importance to these States, as well for keeping up a communication between the eastern and western States, as for a necessary check to prevent the enemy's penetrating the country, is now in the utmost danger of being evacuated for want of provision to support the troops, and which cannot be got on from the State of Connecticut, (where there are now three thousand barrels laying) for want of cash to pay the transportation, all which is essentially necessary for the supply of the troops of the garrisons at West Point and the posts in the vicinity of it:

This is, therefore, to request your Excellency to grant an order for such sums of money to M^r^ Nehemiah Hubbard, D. Q. M. Gen^l^ of your State, as will enable him to get on the provision to the place of consumption.

The continental Treasury is empty, and no hopes of relief is or can be expected from that quarter, however pressing the necessity. I see nothing therefore but certain ruin, unless the State interposes its good offices and prevents the fatal misfortune. I wish your Excellency to be fully perswaded that every fact here is truely stated, and that the necessity is not less pressing than described.

Political bodies are often too tardy in their measures for the emergencies of war. I wish we may not be precipitated into some terrible misfortune on this account. If your Excellency cannot afford us some immediate relief, I shall have only to lament the fatal consequences. I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hum. serv^t^.

NATH. GREENE, *Q. M. G.*

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 7^th^ May, 1780. Nath^ll^ Green, Esq^r^, Q. M. G., *de* Transportation. Necessity. Money, rec^d^ 14^th^ inst.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, May 9th, 1780.

SIR, — Your Excellency will probably before the receipt of this have been informed of the death of the honorable Don Juan Demarelles, the Spanish gentleman of distinction that resided at this place. He died after a short illness the 28th of April at Morristown, to which place he had accompanied the Minister of France to pay their respects to the General & army. His remains were there interred with the honors of war, and his funeral rites have been also here celebrated this day in the French chappel, with very great respect & a lasting requiem sung to his soul.

This gentleman during his residence here appeared zealously attentive to the political interests & views of this country, as well as his own, & waited with impatience to see the ties between the two countries indissolubly formed by a ratification of treaties of amity & commerce, which he expected would take place on the arival of our Minister at the Court of Spain.

Much anxiety prevails here to know the fate of Charlestown, from which there are no accounts to be depended on later than the 9th of April, nor does it appear from the papers published in New York to the 3d of this month, that any accounts have been received there later than ours. In addition to the other troops that had been before detached from the main army & sent to General Lincoln, the Delaware regiment & the Maryland line went on a few days agoe, & will arive it is hoped in season to support the country, should the enemy be so fortunate as to gain a temporary advantage.

There are very circumstantial accounts from New York, transmitted to General Washington, that Paul

Jones is on this coast with a small squadron of five ships, & had lately chased some vessels into the Hook, & that a 74 gun ship & some frigats were preparing at New York to go in quest of him. This may be true, it is unknown to Congress where he is.

Several vessels have arived in this river from S^{t} Eustatia as late as the 23^{d} of April, but bring no material intelligence in addition to what was here before, except that the two formidable fleets in the West Indies were both out of port, & that a very busy & important campaign was expected in that quarter.

No official information has been very lately received by Congress from Europe; but from the current of publications on that side the water, & especially the English papers, it does not appear that any power has yet been found sufficiently uninformed to join Great Britain in her wicked & romantick attempts of reducing to obedience what she yet stiles her rebelious colonies. And as she cannot obtain assistance she seems willing to have it beleived that she stands in need of none; & accordingly goes on with a shew & pretensions of being sufficient for all things of herself; much perhaps as a merchant sometimes on the eve of bankruptcy makes an uncommon parade of wealth & business, in order to keep up the delusion till chance may have had time to atchieve something in his favour. The comparison however fails in this respect, that it is no secret to the world that the circumstances of Great Britain are bad, & that the minds of her wisest men are filled with consternation. She is ready to be crushed with the weight of her own debt, which is accumulating upon her by the whole expence of the war, & for which she is already mortgaged to pay forever an annual interest of seven millions sterling. Her revenues being fully charged with the interest, it is impossible for her ever to reduce the principal but by a sponge or revolution; & as impossible for her to go on

much farther in borrowing. She is also embarrassed with the claims of oppressed Ireland, & which may perhaps advance upon her as she is less in a condition to contest them. Scotland also, tho' habitually servile to the throne, begins now to speak with determined insolence & will be heard. Add to which, county conventions, in spight of the ministry, are now forming in various parts of England under the first characters of the nation, for reducing within due bounds the influence of the crown & the publick expenditures, or, which is the same thing, oversetting the present venal & utopian system of administration. From these marks of weakness & dissolution she bears within herself, it is reasonable to expect that Great Britain will e'er long cease from troubling us; and unless she can speedily regain the sovereignty of the seas, she may be reduced, from her insular scituation, to hold her own existance at the mercy of her enemies. The use good men in America will derive from these considerations will be of encouragement to persevere in the present contest, & to continue working with the Lord until by his good pleasure the great business of our political salvation shall be fully accomplished.

It must, I know, be supporting to your Excellency to observe that the State over which you have the honor to preside, are sufficiently impressed with these sentiments already, & do not need additional arguments laid before them to comply with their duty & their interest. Their sense & determination expressed by the General Assembly in their late sessions at Hartford are a full proof of this, and at the same time exhibit to the world a conviction of the never failing resources a wise & virtuous republick has within itself.

I thought it my duty to read in Congress the accounts I had received from Connecticut, & was kept in countenance by their just approbation. And it is devoutly to be wished that the well timed & animating example of so

respectable a State may have its due influence with the rest. A number of their Assemblies, as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland & Virginia, are, it is said, now convened, or convening, & will be informed thro' the channel of the Philadelphia paper, if not otherwise, what Connecticut has done.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humb^{l} servant,
OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

P. S. Since writing the above advice is received from Charlestown to the 15th of April, 2 o'clock, P. M. The enemy had opened their batteries on the town on the 12th & kept them incessantly playing, but without much execution. They had surprised a party of the light dragoons; our loss was about 20 men, 30 horses, & 20 waggons with their horses. The enemy had also crossed Cooper River, & were taking a strong post on the north side of it, nearly opposite the town & were endeavouring to complete the blockade, which, unless a reinforcement seasonably arived, there was danger of their effecting.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 9th May, 1780. Oliver Elsworth, Esq., *de* death of Don Juan Demarelles. Charlestown. English Finess & Finances. Ireland & Scotland. P. S., *de* Charlestown to 15th April, rec^{d} 20th ins^{t}.

THE CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

A PHILADELPHIE, le 17 Mai, 1780.

MONSIEUR, — Je dois des remercimens à Votre Excellence pour les bons traitemens que les sujets du Roi ont

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* For notice of the Chevalier de la Luzerne, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii p. 439 *n.* — EDS.

reçus dans l'etendue de votre Gouvernment et le S^r^ Landolphe, Cap^tne^ de la Frégatte la Negresse m'a ecrit qu'il ne pouvoit être trop reconnoissant des services que vous lui aves rendus à lui et à son equipage.

Convaincu comme je le suis des dispositions patriotiques et de vos sentimens pour la nation que j'ai l'honneur de representer auprès du Congrès, je ne puis m'applaudir d'un evenement qui va vous mettre à portée, Monsieur, d'être de la plus grande utilité à mes compatriotes et à la cause commune. Le Roi par une suite de son affection pour les treize Etats a resolu d'envoyer ici un corps de troupes destinées à agir contre l'ennemi commun et de vaisseaux qui seront employés à seconder les operations des troupes de terre. Le moment de leur arrivée sera très prochain lorsque vous recevrés cette lettre et quoique le plus profond secret me soit recommandé sur cette affaire, je ne puis le deposer en des mains plus fideles et plus amies. D'ailleurs vos lumieres, Monsieur, et vos services vont être du plus grand secours au succès de nos operations. Les troupes Françoises et l'escadre arriveront dans le port de Rhodeisland et s'avanceront à travers le Conecticut, soit pour agir contre Newyorck, soit pour tenter une operation contre le Canada, suivant que le Congrès et le Général en chef jugeront le plus convenable. Les forces Françoises arriveront pourvues de tout ce qui peut être transporté d'Europe ; mais elles eprouveront un grand besoin de provisions fraiches et si nos agens François se presentoient en ce moment pour faire eux mêmes dans le Conecticut les achats nécessaires, leurs operations accroient le double inconvénient d'instruire les Anglois de nos projets et de faire rencherir les denrées, soit pour le compte du Roi, soit pour celui du Congrés. Ces considerations me portent à croire que Votre Excellence excusera la liberté que je prens de lui confier nos interêts et de remettre en ses mains une operation qui ne meriteroit pas de l'occuper

si elle n'etoit liée aux avantages et à l'independance de ces Etats.

Je joins ici une lettre où M. Holker entre dans le detail, Monsieur, de divers objets de consommation dont je desire que vous vouliés bien faire faire l'achat, aussi promptement et aussi économiquement qu'il sera possible. Il sera sans doute à propos de laisser les vendeurs dans l'opinion que ces denrées sont destinées à être consommées par l'armée Americaine. L'extrait ci joint d'une resolution du Congrès pour autoriser la levée de ces subsistances pourra donner un nouveau poids à la priere que j'ai l'honeur de vous faire et dont l'execution exige la plus grande célerité.

L'eloignement où je suis du lieu du debarquem^{t} ne me permet pas d'en attendre le moment pour vous demander tous les bons offices qui seront si nécessaires à nos troupes ; je compte en cette occasion sur vos dispositions particulieres autant que sur celles des habitans du Conecticut. Il est une infinité de details qui ne peuvent être prévues, mais etant sur les lieux votre amitié pour nous vous suggerera tout ce que je suis forcé d'omettre.

Je crois devoir vous prier de prendre des mesures pour faire fournir à nos soldats tous les légumes qu'il sera possible de recueillir ; ils y sont habitués et leur santé ne pourra que gagner à en faire un usage moderé. Carottes, navets, oignons, choux, patates, pois, feves, lentilles, &c., leur seront d'une grande ressource, et si la vegetation est prompte dans le Conecticut, il seroit bon de diriger quelques fermiers vers ce genre de culture dont nos troupes seront probablement dans le cas de consommer le produit.

M^{r} Holker, Agent de la Marine du Roi, vous fait passer 80,000^{lb} tournois en lettres de change et tiendra le surplus à votre disposition, ou en papier monnoye, ou en lettre de change, ou en marchandises d'Europe evaluées à l'amiable, et nous vous prions de nous mander de quelle

maniere vous desirés de le recevoir parceque d'ici à deux mois nous pourrons vous le faire parvenir.

Je suis, avec un respectueux attachement,
Monsieur, de votre Excellence,
le très humble et très obéissant serviteur.
LE CHE. DE LA LUZERNE.

S. E. Mr TRUMBULL, Gr du Connecticut.

Indorsed : 17th May, 1780. Minister of France, *de* French troops & navy, recd 23d inst, A. M.

JOHN HOLKER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, May 17th, 1780.

SIR, — It being the intention of his Excellency Monsieur Le Chevalier de La Luzerne, on the suposition of the arrival of a squadron or fleet in your neighbourhood, that the necessary preparations should be made immediately for their reception, I have the honor of adressing my self to your Excellency, so as you may give those directions you may think proper, in order that the Commissary of purchases of your State may contract for & have in the neighbourhood of New London, on good grass, one thousand oxen & twelve hundred sheep, which you'll please to have kept in good order till you receive further intelligence from our Minister Plenipotentiary. Should the sheep bear too high a price in proportion to the beef, you are at liberty to reduce the number to six hundred, which will be necessary to put on board the *ships*.

I should also request that three hundred horses be purchased, for the purpose of mounting three hundred men.

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* John Holker was appointed in July, 1778, by M. Gérard, minister plenipotentiary of his most Christian Majesty, "inspector general of trade and manufactures of France, and agent to the royal marine of France," and also "consul of France in the port of Philadelphia." See Journals of Congress, vol. iv. p. 421. — EDS.

The Marquis de La Fayette is verry desirous that they should be fit for actual service, should be sound, should trot & gallop well. I hope your Excellency will instruct the persons charged with the purchase thereof to attend carefully to these purposes, trusting that things will be executed to the best advantage & without loosing one minute if possible, so as they may be collected forthwith in any part of your State where they can have plenty of provisions between Hartford & New-London.

To these objects we could wish your Excellency could add 500 pipes of cider, sound in quality, & that could keep for two or three months on hand; these must be forwarded immediately to New-London if procured.

In order to facilitate these verry important objects, I send M^{r} Tho^{s} Mumford under your cover 20 setts of bills of exchange amounting to 80,000 livres tournois, making near 16,000 hard dollars, which he is directed to pass to your order, or to that of the treasurer of the State, as you'll please to direct, so as the State may be accountable for them on account of the purchases I hereby request to be made on behalf of the service of his Most Christian Majesty. Should more be wanted, I will send them at your first requisition, but this will not be so soon necessary, if the oxen are contracted for at a fixed price made payable at their delivery to the Commissary.

As for the horses I aprehend they must be purchased with hard mony in the remote parts of Connecticut; part of my bills might be negotiated for the hard mony, the rest I hope it will be in our power to supply by the begining of July next, & you might order the contracts or prices settled in that manner, so as not to loose time unnecessarily.

M. Mumford is not aquainted with any part of this business; you have therefore only to call for the bills if they can be of use, but you'll please to observe at the same time that the provisions must be supplied him im-

mediately. I mean those mentioned in the late resolves of Congress.

I remain your Excellency most obedient
& verry humble servant.
HOLKER.

Your Excellency will please to observe that the three inclosed letters of advice must be forwarded to France by the first opportunity, if they are negotiated.

Indorsed: 17th May, 1780. Consull, *de* Provisions for French Troops & Navy, recd 23d inst.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 6, 1780.

SIR, — By the enclosed paper of this day your Excellency will see the Spaniards are in possession of Mobile. There are no late official accounts from South-Carolina, but from a variety of circumstances there is much reason to apprehend that Charlestown is in the hands of the enemy, & that the garrison capitulated about the 12th of May.

The war will probably be very serious with us this campaign, & it is to be wished all may duly expect & be prepared for it.

Some of the new bills for Connecticut will I hope be forwarded the begining of next week. What the Eastern States have done on the resolutions of the 18th of March your Excellency is fully informd of. N. York has adopted the measure with unanimity & spirit & pledged their forfeited estates as a fund for their bills. The Assembly of New Jersey, it is said, have neerly compleated their Act for adopting the measure. This State your Excellency will see in the enclosed paper. The Assembly of Delaware are convening again, & it is to be hoped will have wisdom & firmness enough to do right. Mary-

land meets again the 7th of this month. Mr Jenifer, a delegate from that State, says they will undoubtedly adopt the measure & execute it, as not only the people, but a decided majority both in Senate & Assembly, approve it. A question arose when their Assembly were last together between them & the Senate, whether the new bills should be a tendery; on this they grew warm & adjourned. They have probably by this time cooled & discovered that they were disputing about a circumstance not very essential. Virginia Assembly are together & there is every reason to expect they will adopt the measure pretty unanimously.

There is nothing very late from Europe; nor any other particulars yet recd of the engagement in the West Indies than what is taken from the English accounts. We hear nothing yet of the arrival of the French fleet, but shall begin to look out for them in a week or ten days.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obdt, humb. sert.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 6th June, 1780. Oliver Elsworth, Esqr, *de* Mobile — Warr to be serious — Preperations — New Currency — several States adopts, &c.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 8, 1780.

SIR, — The various accounts we have from the Southward still leave it a matter of some doubt whether Charlestown is taken or not; tho' it is now generally beleived to have been safe on the 12th of May, & by many as late as the 18th.

A body of the enemy from New York supposed to con-

sist of 4,000 or 5,000 marched into Jersey the 7th, as far as Springfield; some skirmishing has ensued, whether their object is forraging, or attempting the camp at Morristown, or to make a shew of their force is yet uncertain.

Letters from Martinique, as late as the 13th of May, mention no further particulars of the engagement of the 17th of April, than that the English fleet in a shattered condition put into St Lucia, & that the French fleet with their troops on board continued out; & it was hoped would be able to effect a descent on some of the English islands.

A very large quantity of military stores & provisions are said to have arrived in the West Indies from France.

We do not yet hear of the arival of the fleet expected on this coast.

More than 40 sail of merchantmen have arrived in the Delaware & Cheaspeak in the course of ten days. Prices & exchange are falling. There has been no depreciation of the currency here for about three months.

Your Excellency will doubtless receive from the President a resolution for advancing in Connecticut a sum of the monies of these United States, when such there shall be not otherwise appropriated, to the French Commissary, Mons. de Corny, to be replaced in specie on the arival of their fleet. It is, indeed, to be wished that the United States had mony at this time in Connecticut & other States that could be advanced for such exchange, as evident & essential benefits might result therefrom. But at present it cannot be supposed that they have much money in bank any where. This the Minister was frankly informed of before the resolution passed, that he might not be thereby disappointed, & that it was doubtful whether there would soon be any considerable sums in the Treasury or loan office in Connecticut that Congress would have right to draw for. It is earnestly his

wish to do all in his power for establishing the credit of the paper currency. And I will take the liberty to suggest to your Excellency as I did to the Minister that should the United States not have money on hand that they could so exchange, it might be of publick utility could such exchanges be made with individual States or persons. He has received of this State £17,000 of their new bills pretty similar to those lately struck by Connecticut, to replace the same in specie when the fleet arives. It would be well if the specie which the French may bring into the country for supplies could with their approbation & convenience be placed in the publick Treasuries & their purchases made with the same currency as ours.

Two or three hundred thousand dollars of the new bills for Connecticut will be sent forward on Monday next. If the holders of the old bills should appear desirous or willing to exchange them for the new at their relative value, this might perhaps be effected, under proper restrictions, thro' the hands of a publick agent or agents who should receive & carry the old bills into the loan office to be destroyed, & obtain credit therefor to the State as part of its quota to be bro^{t} in, & who could receive the $\frac{6}{10}$ on behalf of the State, out of which he could pay over $\frac{5}{10}$ or at the rate of 1 for 40, to the proprietors of the bills received in, retaining $\frac{1}{10}$ for the State. This thought I have taken the liberty to suggest to the consideration of your Excellency, conceiving it to be immaterial to the United States what methods, consistant with good faith, any State shall take to expedite the gathering & bringing in its quota to be destroyed. To what lengths it may be expedient for the State to lay open its funds, so that persons possessed of money in other States who should give the preference to Connecticut funds might come in & take the benefit of them, to the eventual exclusion of some of its own citizens, as the

case may be, your Excellency will be most competent to determine.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humb. serv^{t}.
OLIV^{R} ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 8th June, 1780. Oliver Ellsworth, Esq^{r}, *de* Charlestown — W. India Intelligence — Mons. Corny — Exch^{e} of Money with French Agent. Aid to our Bills, &c., &c.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

HARTFORD, June 8th, 1780.

SIR, — By the desire of the General Assembly I am again to address you upon the subject of the debts due to our cattle feeders, and the accounts of the purchasing Commissaries under the late Commissary General.

These debts are unpaid, and the unsettled state of the Commissary's accounts is alledged as a reason for delaying payment, the Commissaries are called upon to attend at Philadelphia to pass their acco^{s}; their accounts, vouchers and every document respecting them must be produced there, the expence of transporting these accounts and the attendance of the Commissaries, if to be born by them, are ruinous, if by the United States enormous, and as it appears to us useless. We can conceive of no reason why an officer of your Chamber of Accounts, with such assistance as you may think proper to assign him in this State, or if we are so unhappy as to have no persons worthy of this confidence, from some other State, cannot as well examine these accounts here as at Philadelphia. To speak our own opinion freely, we believe they may be adjusted much better here than they can be there; here the business was transacted, here is every person who hath personal knowlege of the transactions; frauds, errors, mistakes will be much easier detected

where many persons on the spot are conversant of facts, and may readily be called to testify their knowlege. At Philadelphia the accounts, with the testimony of the accountants, are all the evidence may be expected, and should the vouchers be suspected, how can they investigate the truth? The witnesses to be called upon are at three hundred miles distance, besides one of those Commissaries, Colº Champion, is now at the head of the purchasing department of provisions for your army in this State. His experience, his ability, and his unwearied attention to his business are such and the confidence placed in him by & his influence with that class of our people who furnish the largest supplies of provision [*illegible*] that his presence at present, & for the ensuing summer, is indispensibly necessary, and your army must inevitably suffer by his absence. Here he might attend to and close his accounts, and at the same time pay proper attention to the business of his Department. We intreat Congress to believe that we wish for a settlement of these and all other accounts as ardently as they can do, and equally desire the same may be examined with the greatest care and accuracy, and speedily closed. The inevitable delay, as well as the inconvenience of attending a settlement at Philadelphia, is our motive for urgeing a different and, as we conceive, a more expeditious and effectual mode.

It is no less disagreable than necessary for us again to desire the attention of Congress to the situation of some of their creditors in this State; we mean those who have credited them with beeves the last year, they consist of our principal farmers, upon whom we have depended for our supplies for the army. Their confidence in the States and zeal for their service have promted them to advance their whole stock upon credit to your officers; by the failure of stipulated payments capital mischiefs have ensued; they are unable to replace their

stocks; their pastures are unfilled. Hence no supplies can be expected from them the current year, unless speedy payment is made, and they will besides be great sufferers in their private interest, their contracts being made for specific sums of Continental currency, which hath since that time greatly depreciated. These, if now literally performed, will fall far short of the value contracted to be paid them, and which they would have received, had the contracts on the part of the public been punctually complied with.

These persons are men of property and influence in the districts in which they reside; they have been amongst the most zealous of the friends of the United States; they feel themselves suffering injustice & loss from the failure of their dependance upon the faith of the public; they will not sit down contented to be told a principal officer of yours with whose substitutes they contracted, is gone out of office and public forms require that all payments under him should be stopped untill all his accounts are adjusted. They say they did not credit him but the United States, whose servant he was, and to whose use the articles they delivered him were applied; they consider his contracts as yours, and a failure of performance on his part, as a breach of the public faith plighted them by him, especially as they are fully persuaded that your officers had proper authority to sollicit credit for you, and that they have not failed of fullfilling their contracts by reason of any fraud or misapplication of monies entrusted & advanced to them, but solely because Congress have not enabled them to keep their contracts. Hence not only the immediate sufferers, but many others giving credit and influenced by their complaints, neglect to exert themselves to raise and furnish the articles necessary to supply the army, and turn their attention to other branches of business in which they hope to evade the inconveniences complained of.

The consequences of their policy are already severely felt; the sufferings of your army, which, at any other time, it would have been in our power to relieve, most clearly demonstrate this, and should these creditors be neglected any considerable time longer, or held to receive the bare nominal sum in Continental money agreed for under expectation of specie payment last year, it is hard to say what may be the event; but it is our duty to declare that we cannot be answerable that it will be in our power to furnish the supplies expected from us by Congress, tho we shall certainly in all events exert our utmost endeavours for that purpose.

I am. with sentiments of esteem & regard,
Sir, your obedient, hble. servant.
J : T——LL.

His Excellency The President of Congress.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 18th, 1780.

SIR, — I have been honoured with your Excellency's two letters by Brown, with the Act of Assembly requesting the monies advanced to forward provisions in the Quartermaster's department might be reimbursed, which was readily complied with; Mr Ellsworth will forward the warrant by Brown, agreable to your Excellency's desire.

The other matter respecting the payment of debts due for beef in the Commissaries department is attended with more difficulty, the perplexing difficulty is want of money. Your letter on that subject is referd to a Special Committee, who have not reported. I hope the result of their report may in some measure answer the purpose.

Congress have appointed Commissioners with proper powers from the Board of Treasury, to repair to different

States as occasion may require, and, in conjunction with others to be appointed by the Supreme Executive of such States, to settle accounts.

I have long been of opinion this mode was necessary & am happy to see it adopted; hope that some one or more of the Commissioners may be soon ordered to Connecticutt to settle accounts in the late Commissary Wadsworth's department and others that may be properly setled there.

The enemy lately made an incursion in the Jerseys, attended with their usual burning and devastation, and from the last accounts were encamped at and near Elizbethtown-point, and it is mortifying to find Gen^{l} Washington hath not an army sufficient to remove them. The speedy filling up the Continental army appears of absolute necessity.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem,

Your Excellency's hum^{le} serv^{t}.

Sam. Huntington.

P. S. M^{r} Sherman arriv^{d} last night.

Gov^{r} Trumbull.

Indorsed: 18th June, 1780. President Huntington, *de* Money Advanced to Q. M^{s}. Debts to the Farmers. Comissioners of Accounts. Intelligence. rec^{d} 25th ins^{t} mane, p M^{r} Brown.

HORATIO GATES* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Travellers' Rest, Berkeley County,
Virginia, 23^{d} June, 1780.

Dear Sir, — When I had the honour to wait upon your Excellency last November at Lebanon, you were so obliging as to shew some fine charts of the coast and

* For notice of General Gates, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 49 *n*. — Eds.

country of the Southern States. Congress have lately, unanimously, resolved to send me to command in that Department; might I presume to prevail with your Excellency to spare me those charts, until I can get them copied, when I promise they shall be immediately returnd to the Board of War, to be again restored to your Excellency. As I never was so far South as Williamsbourg, these charts will be of the greatest service; indeed, to an officer ever so well acquainted with the theatre he is to act upon, good plans & charts are of the utmost use. With every sentiment of esteem and respect, believe me, Sir,

Your faithful and affectionate, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

P. S. My respectfull compliments to Col^{s} Jonathan & John Trumbull.

His Excellency Governour TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Travellers' Rest, Berkley County, Virginia, 23^{d} June, 1780. Maj^{r} General Gates, request^{s} Maps. rec^{d} 21st July seq.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 23^{d}, 1780.

SIR, — I enclose for your Excellency's perusal the papers last published here.

The enemy have gained some advantages to the southward since the surrender of Charlestown; but it is to be hoped from the exertions now making in North Carolina & Virginia that they will not be able to proceed much farther. The enemy in Jersey remained on the 20th of this month inactive at Elizabeth Town point. It is certain a fleet has returned to New York from Charlestown &, according to the best information yet obtained, has

bro^{t} General Clinton & a considerable part of his troops. It is said that Admiral Arbuthnot is also returned.

General Lincoln arived this day at Congress & has requested an enquiry into his conduct in the loss of Charlestown.

M^{r} Laurence having been prevented going to Holland, M^{r} John Adams, or, if inconvenient for him, M^{r} Dana is authorised to transact the business there until M^{r} Laurence or some other appointed in his room shall arive.

Your Excellency, I presume, has too perfect a knowledge of the state of the army & too frequent representations of the publick exigencies from Congress, their committee at camp, & the General, to leave it in my power to add anything on those subjects.

M^{r} Huntington is neerly thro' the small pox, & I hope will soon leave me at liberty to return home.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humb^{l} serv^{t}.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

BENJAMIN STODDERT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

WAR OFFICE, July 9th, 1780.

In consequence of a resolve of Congress, commissions cannot issue to the officers of any particular State till their appointments, or promotions, are approved of by the Executive authority of the State to which the officers belong.

The Colonels, therefore, commanding reg^{ts} in the Con-

* Benjamin Stoddert was born in Charles County, Maryland, in 1751. In 1776 he joined the American army, but was so severely wounded at the battle of Brandywine as to be obliged to retire from active service. Subsequently he was secretary of the Board of War. In May, 1798, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy, and remained in office until the close of President Adams's administration. He died in Bladensburg, Md., Dec. 18, 1813. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. v. p. 698; Lanman's Biographical Annals, p. 408. — EDS.

necticut line, should signify to the goverment of the State, the vacancy's, & the promotions in consequence thereof, as they happen. The goverment will either transmit to this board, or to the officers commanding the reg^{ts}, their approbation, upon which the commissions will issue, but the board are not authorized to issue them upon any other voucher.

BEN. STODDERT, *Sec^{y}*.

Indorsed: July 9th, 1780. Letter from y^{e} Secretary of Board of Warr, *de* promotions & appoint^{ts} being approved by the Executive Power.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

LEBANON, 10th July, 1780.

SIR, — In your letter of the 18th June last you inform "that Congress have appointed Commissioners with proper powers from the Board of Treasury, to repair to the different States as occasion may require, and in conjunction with others to be appointed by the supream executive of such States to settle accounts." "That one or more of the Commissioners may be soon order'd to Connecticut to settle accounts in the late Commissary Wadsworth's department & others that may be properly settled there."

Is it not as reasonable that the Quarter Master's accounts be settled in like manner as the Commissary's? The persons now acting therein to be called to Philadelphia for settlement must be inconvenient, to say the least. Many of the persons concerned are in present employment, and their presence absolutely necessary; moreover the transporting the accounts with other exhibits and attendance must be very expensive, and the detection of frauds, &c., doubtful and difficult. It is best that accounts should be settled as often as possible in a reasonable way, and that ways and means be provided for the

payment of the public debts & expenditures. This State have afforded assistance to the Q. M. Gen$^{l's}$ department to carry forward provisions of which Congress have been informed, and yet there are loud clamours for want of payment of old arrears.

Enclosed is copy of an order of the Treasury Office. Will not Congress take care to prevent the difficulties by soon ordering a Commissioner to this State, as proposed, to settle with the Commissary's & Q. Master's departments and all others that may be properly settled here?

The settlement of such extensive accounts is the work of time. Such numbers of persons called from each State will only tend to embarrass, delay, & enhance expenses.

I am, &c.,

President of Congress. J. T——LL.

Indorsed: 10th July, 1780. To President Huntington. *De* Comissioners of Acc^{ts}. P Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

LEBANON, 10th July, 1780.

SIR, — In answer to the Secretary's letter & requisition of the 17th of June last, I have the pleasure to inform Congress, beside the information already given, that on the recommendation of 9th of March, 1779, the Assembly passed acts for compleating their quota of 80 battalions and offered large premiums in addition to the encouragement by Congress; but unhappily few were raised in consequence, and the remaining quota was detached for eight months and served accordingly.

In compliance with that of the 21st May, 1779, the Assembly granted several taxes, to the amount of three shillings on the pound in the whole, more than sufficient to raise our quota of 45 millions of dollars, which have been collected and expended for possible service in payments to the orders of Congress, &c.

The circular letter or address of Congress to their establishments at large of the 13th Septr, 1779, stating the national debt, a general recommendation to keep the battalions full, to encourage loans, to assess and collect taxes, proposing soon to point out further ways and means of providing for the public exigencies, and containing remarks on the depreciation of the currency, general exhortations to zealous exertions and performance in the great cause, — was duly received, communicated, and publicly read throughout this State, and will, I doubt not, be productive of many salutary effects; but not pointing to and requiring any especial or appropriate acts of the legislature, none were passed in consequence, but for its publication.

The recommendation of the 6th & 7th of October, respecting the quotas of 15 millions of dollars from January to October, 1780, was laid before and taken into consideration by the Assembly at the earliest opportunity, in addition to all other taxes then imposed, and essentially necessary for our own more immediate safety. The burden appeared almost insupportable, and they did not immediately enact a full and specific compliance, but for that and other necessary purposes laid at that and the succeeding sessions of the Assembly six several taxes, payable in Jany, April, June, July, September, and November; the first of one, and all the rest of two dollars each, on the pound. The three first are swallowed up by the various & great demands for more immediate defence, &c. The three last are appropriated & confined to answer the aforesaid requisitions of Congress, and will produce nearly eleven millions & a half dollars in the whole, at three equal payments, in July instant, Septemr, and Novemr, and leaves about three millions & eight hundred thousand dollars of our estimated (not real) quota as yet unprovided for, to which deficiency the Assembly will pay all possible attention, & provide for according to the utmost ability of the people.

In addition to all these we have been obliged to emit bills since March last to the amount of £190,000, equal to silver, for the purpose of obtaining supplies for the army, and procuring recruits for our line of the battalions at £6 each, and militia to cooperate, &c., according to the requisitions of Congress, &c., beside which the several towns in the State hire their several quotas by an additional private expense at least equal, & to serve only till the last of December next, the militia only three months. For the redemption of which bills to about half their amount taxes are also laid, payable at several periods to January next. I see no way to get along for the present without further large emissions and taxations, but shall to our utmost avoid an interference by our emissions of bills with the plan of Congress contained in their resolution of the 18th March.

The recommendation of the 9th Octo is answered above. Every endeavour will be used for a full compliance, and am pleased that Congress engage on their part "to observe the strictest economy in the expenditures." It is essentially necessary.

The request of the 11th Decemr for 8,000 barrels of flour from this State is not restricted in point of time, and was supposed to be the full quota expected from us for the year. It is well known that this is not much of a wheat country, but on the receipt of the resolution all the endeavours which circumstances would admit were used to procure it, and between three and four hundred barrels were obtained in April, and no call for, no place of delivery mentioned. It is since delivered over for the use of the expected French armament; and all further endeavours have been used, and are using, to provide flour for the requisitions of Congress. Some quantity is on hand, and every thing practicable will be done, but probably it is impossible fully to comply with the wishes of Congress in that behalf.

The resolution of the 9th Feb., 1780, assigning the quotas of the several States, and requesting the deficiencies to be furnished by drafts or otherwise by the first of April following, was received the 22d of Febv, and fortunately our General Assembly was then sitting, and had it under immediate consideration, and took every measure which then appeared proper & necessary fully to compleat their deficient quota, but have been obliged to make alterations and additional encouragements, &c., at two succeeding sessions, and finally to procure them only untill the last of December next, except a very few enlisted for three years or during the war.

It would have been very happy had the requisition & assignment been made much earlier. The Assembly in Octo preceding were during their session in daily expectation of a demand of the kind, and could probably have adopted measures to have obtained the men much earlier and on better terms before the business of the spring opened upon us. Every thing has been done since to compleat the quota, I trust effectually, though under great disadvantages, as you will observe by my other letter of this date and its enclosures.

That of the 25th Febv last, respecting specific supplies will be answered by my other letter.

You will have received an answer to that of the 18th of March respecting the bills in circulation.

That of the 19th May respecting the 10 millions of dollars to be paid into the Continental Treasury in 30 days I never received.

The last requisition of the 20th May is complied with in the recess of the Assembly, as will appear by my other letter referred to.

I am, &c. J. T——LL.

Honble Samuel Huntington, President of Congress.

Indorsed: 10th July, 1780. To Presidt Huntington. *De* measures taken by the Assembly, &c. P Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

LEBANON, 10th July, 1780.

SIR, — I was honor'd with your favor of the 23d ult°, enclosing a resolution of Congress requesting explicit and immediate information how far they might rely upon this State's furnishing the supplies of men, money, & provisions called for by Congress or their committee at head quarters.

In A. D. 1779, this State raised nine millions eight hundred & sixteen thousand six hundred & fifty-six & one third dollars for Continental & State purposes.

In A. D. 1780, have ordered taxes to raise 20,900,000 dollars Continent[l] currency & 316,666 dollars L. money, which at forty for one is equal to 1,466, 640 dollars Continental currency,* in like manner and for like purposes, part of which is already collected, and warrants ordered for collecting the residue. And altho' the collection of these taxes hath been as successful as could be expected, yet the exigencies of the public which could not be otherwise answered have been so pressing as to lay us under the disagreeable necessity of emitting since the first £40,000, £150,000 in bills of like tenor, charged on funds laid for the redemption of them within four years.

The General Assembly of this State at their sessions in January last granted a premium of three hundred dollars in addition to the bounty given by Congress to each non-commissioned officer and private that should enlist for three years or during the war. In April last they added 300 dollars to their former grant. Notwithstanding these

* It is obvious that Governor Trumbull's secretary made a mistake in copying the figures here given. 316,666 dollars should be, without doubt, 36,666 dollars. That sum at 40 for 1 is the equivalent of 1,466.640 dollars Continental currency, as here stated. The great decline in the value of the currency between Jan. 1, 1779, and March 1, 1780, as shown in the table printed on p. 33, will account for much the larger part of the difference between the amount of taxes in 1779 and the amount ordered to be raised by taxation in 1780. — EDS.

encouragements and the grants made by the Assembly to compensate the troops serving in the Continental army from this State for their losses sustained by the depreciation were satisfactory to the committee from the army, little success was had in the recruiting service.

Upon the requisition of Congress & their committee of cooperation at Head Quarters this State ordered 2,500 men to be raised, to compleat our battalions in the army to the number of 504 each, to join by the 15th instant, and to serve for the war, three years, or six months, and in case that number should not be raised by voluntary enlistment the compliment to be made up by peremptory detachment, to serve untill the last day of December next.

Also have ordered 2,520 men, including the two State regiments commanded by Colonels Wells & Bebee, to be raised by voluntary enlistment or peremptory detachment from the militia, to rendezvous at Danbury by the 15 instant, and to serve for three months from the time of their arrival there, as by the enclosed act of the Genl Assembly and resolves of the Governor & Council will be seen. The raising of the men is nearly compleated & the greatest part on their march to join the army.

This State, it is well known, is not a country for grain, yet being desirous that nothing should be wanting on our part that might possibly be done to promote the common cause, have resolved to comply with the requisition, and are exerting ourselves to that purpose. Have order'd an illustration to be made of all the grain, flour, &c., within this State, in order to know the quantity & when it may be had, yet I would not have Congress depend on our supplying the whole quantity of flour and grain that is called for from us, for I fear after all we may fall short considerably. The horses we shall purchase here. Shall procure the teams by hiring. The beef, rum & bacon required of us monthly we shall probably be able

to supply. Whether we shall be able to procure the whole quantity of salt cannot certainly say. On the whole Congress may be assured this State hath and will exert themselves to yield punctual compliance with the requisitions, and that nothing but want of ability will occasion a failure in any particular.

Enclosed is copy of the Act of Gen^{l} Assembly investing the Governor and his Council of Safety with competent powers for doing whatever may be necessary for the common defence & safety in the recess of Assembly.

We have lent M. de Corny, Commissary General of the Army of our allies, £20,000 in bills of this State to facilitate his purchases. Have ordered thirty tons of flour for their use, and sent a quantity of beef and mutton to the State of Rhode Island to be ready on their arrival. One hundred horses are purchased, & will be sent on to-morrow, for the use of their troops. We are taking measures to enable their Commissary General to procure cyder, vegetables, & other necessaries for the accommodation of the fleet and army.

The quantity of salted pork we shall be able to supply them with is at present uncertain, can only say we shall do the best we can with respect to it.

I am, &c., J. T——LL.

President Huntington.

Indorsed: 10th July, 1780. To President Huntington. *De* compliance with resolves of Congress. P Brown.

SAMUEL H. PARSONS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Danbury, 11th July, 1780.

Sir, — From some inquiries I have been led to make in the line of my duty, I find great reason to beleive there is an extensive confederation in this State for making &

* For notice of General Parsons, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 154 *n.* — Eds.

passing counterfeit bills, considerable quantities I have detected: other combinations for supplying the enemy are also enterd into, of which I have full satisfaction but at present not that kind of proof which will convict the offenders on a trial at law: these inquiries have arisen incidentally in trials on military subjects. Should I proceed to apprehend the offenders without first acquainting the Council, and acting at least by their consent, if not by their direction, I am apprehensive much complaint will be made and the liberties of the subject be tho't greatly in danger. I therefore wish your Excellency's direction on the subject, whither I shall, by the consent of Council, proceed to apprehend these offenders, & subject them to examination in the course of military process, until the train of evidence becomes so arrang^{d} as to enable the civil magistrate to take up & pursue the matter, according to the ordinary course of law. I have great reason to think this plan of villany is extensive & will prove of most pernicious consequences unless speedily detected.

I am, with esteem & respect,
Y^{r} Excellency's obed^{t} serv^{t}.
Sam^{l} H. Parsons.

Governor Trumbull.

ROYAL FLINT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Newport, July 17, 1780.

Sir, — The failure of the beeves & mutton expected from Colo. Champion has occasioned great confusion & uneasiness & may probably effect a revolution in the mode of supplies. As there was not more than three days

* Royal Flint, of Windham, was appointed an assistant commissary of supplies by the Governor and Council of Safety of Connecticut, in May, 1777. (See Public Records of Connecticut, October, 1776-February, 1778, p. 318.) He seems afterward to have held a similar position in the continental service. — Eds.

allowance of beef on hand when the fleet arrived, M^r^ D^e^ Corney was necessitated to purchase any kind of fresh meat, of any body, & at any price. His situation was really critical. He put the greatest confidence in having the cattle & sheep seasonably from Connecticut, and had looked to no other resource for a supply. No possible excuse, in the French army, will justify a want of provisions. If that army were to be one day without a regular ration of bread & meat, it would lead to a mutiny, if not to a revolt; and it has never been known in any country, or at any time, that their troops were not furnished with every thing that was promised them. M^r^ D^e^ Corney is now extremely at a loss what steps to take. The disappointment he has met with from Connecticut has made his prospects from that quarter precarious. To make particular contracts for provisions, though it would put their subsistance on a certain footing, yet would counteract the system designated by Congress; and to leave the supplies so as there will be a possibility of failure will be hazarding the dissolution of their army. He is embarrassed beyound conception. I cannot absolutely engage him to be supplied from Connecticut, as I too well know the difficulties that attend your obtaining provisions. He says he will chearfully receive what you can afford, but he must know with precision what quantities of beef & mutton you can send, and at what time; and the affair must not be left to bare assurance, but he must have the strongest security in writing that the engagements will be punctually fulfilled.

I find that there is the most perfect order & œconomy in the business of the French army. Every morning there is an exact account laid before the Commander in Chief of all supplies actually on hand, and of the certain prospects of what may be had in future. They examine particularly the quality & prices of all articles they receive, and are very critical in both these respects.

Their officers of every denomination appear careful of waste & expence; and to be so punctual to their duty, that we should suppose each individual had no other object in view than the good of the service. The soldiers behave with great civility & there has not been an instance of drunkenness or depredation on private property since the troops landed on this Island.

M^r^ D^e^ Corney has requested Colo. Wadsworth to come to Newport that some arrangements more explicit & determinate may be formed, and that every point may be reduced to certainty. It should be known therefore what supplies the state of Connecticut will engage to furnish.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your Exc^y^ most ob^t^ & hbl. srvt.

ROYAL FLINT.

His Exc^y^ Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Royal Flynt, *de* Supplys for y^e^ French army, pressing y utmost certainty & precisn. July 17, 1780.

GEORGE OLNEY TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

NEW-LONDON, 19^th^ July, 1780.

SIR, — I arriv'd here last evening, in expectation of finding one or two French frigates in this harbour, with clothing and military stores for the American army, which I have directions from his Excellency General Washington, to receive and forward to camp with all possible expedition. In those directions I am informed that your Excellency has been desired to lend me all the aid and assistance in your power to provide the necessary number of teams. As the clothing and stores have not yet arriv'd from Newport, and as it is probable they may be carried as far as Fairfield by water, I do not think it advisable that any of the teams which may be procured

by the measures your Excellency may take should be order'd to this place, untill I receive further directions from the General respecting the place of unloading, which I expect in two or three days, and which I shall immediately give you notice of. M^r^ Hubbard, D. Q. M. G., at Hartford was also requested by Gen^l^ Greene to use his influence in providing teams for this purpose; and as the little money I could get to bring with me will not allow me to hire many expresses, I am under the necessity of beging the favour of your Excellency's forwarding the inclos'd letter to Hartford as soon as may be.

A line, in answer to this, will greatly oblige,

Y^r^ Excellency's most ob^t^, hum^l^ serv^t^.

GEO. OLNEY, *Aud^r^*.

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: July 19, 1780. G. Olney, *de* Cloathing & Military Stores expected at N. London, probably may be carried as far as Fairfield by water — not best to send teams at N. London at present.

GEORGE OLNEY TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW-LONDON, 19^th^ July, 1780.

SIR, — I have just been honor'd with your Excellency's letter of the 18^th^, and having this morning written you that I should wait for further directions, (with respect to the place of landing the clothing and military stores) from Gen^l^ Washington, before I had any part of them unloaded, I shall now only say that I shall be under the necessity of following his orders implicitly, whether they are to transport the stores by land from hence or elsewhere. However, if his orders should be discretionary, I shall readily agree to your Excellency's plan, thinking it more practicable than the one propos'd by the com-

mander in chief; and more safe from any attempt of the enemy than that propos'd by Gen[l] Parsons of landing them at Fairfield. In the mean time M[r] Shaw will engage and hold in readiness a number of small vessels to carry them either to Middletown or Fairfield, as may be hereafter determined.

I am directed by Gen[l] Washington to send on, first, 10,000 stand of arms and all the ready-made cloths, as being wanted immediately: if possible, a sufficient number of teams to carry the whole of these should be provided & held in readiness to go forw[d] as fast as they are unloaded. The remainder to follow as soon as may be.

I am, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most ob[t], hum[l] serv[t].

GEO. OLNEY, *Aud.*

His Excellency Gov[r] TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 19[th] July, 1780. Geo. Olney, Esq[r], Aud[r], *de* cloathing, &c., from French fleet.

REPRESENTATION FROM THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD.

WETHERSFIELD, July 19[th], 1780.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The inhabitants of this town have this week been surprized by a proclamation issued by your Excellency, with advice of Council of Safety, extending the embargoe to vegetables, &c., which we suppose intended principally to prevent the exportation of onions. No man (however interested) who is a friend to America would think it a hardship to be restrain[d] in the sale of his produce, were it necessary for the sustenance or even convenience of the American or French troops, but we beleive your Excellency & Council have been misinform[d] with respect to the quan-

tity in this and the neighbouring towns of this article; early in the spring twas reported that a French fleet would visit this coast this season and it seem[d] probable that y[e] scene of warr would be near this State, if the enemy were successful at the southward, which was most generally expected; these rumours, join[d] to the usual desire of gain, induced this people to go largely into this manner of culture, & more onions are now growing by far than has been at any one period since the warr commenced & the prospect of a crop very good. We believe that in this and the neighbour towns, where of late this kind of agriculture is begun, there are more onions now growing than the American & French army & fleet could with any degree of œconomy consume in twelve months, without any consideration of the immense quantities raised at Bristol & other places in Rhode Island, & on the Cape in Massachusetts. We should have been very glad as a town to have been heard upon a matter which so nearly concern[d] us in particular before the embargoe had been laid. We find by the proclamation that no one has any right to transport any of this commodity to our own army or that of our ally, altho he should raise it on his own ground & be possessed of the means of transportation. The effect of this is, that the public officer is the only person who can buy; for no man will be so foolish as to bring us the articles we need for our families consumption and take our onions to sell to the Commissary or keep them on hand; he must either suffer the loss of his labor & expences by selling them to the public or a total loss by their perishing in store. No provision is made in the Resolve that the public officer shall purchase all we can spare & indeed tis impossible he should need them; the consequence is he will take no more than he pleases and at what time he pleases, and the residuum we must keep by us untill twenty days after the next session of Assembly, (unless the Resolve is sooner al-

tered) by which time most of our crop will spoil if the Assembly should not sit earlier than usual in Autumn.

The greivances most loudly complain[d] off arise from the practice upon this law, which we beg leave to state in as concise a manner as we are able. We find a M[r] Bunce of this town purchasing by authority, as it appears, for the army & navy of our ally, who is not a person of the most respectable character; he has fix[d] the price of the first crop at six pence and the second crop at four pence State currency p bunch, as he informs us himself. And has sold to the people rum, sugar & Indian corn, as appears by his own concession and abundant other proof, at the following prizes, viz., a gal[n] rum for forty bunches early onions or sixty of the late crop; a pound muscovado sugar for four bunches early onions & late crop in proportion; a bushel corn at twenty two bunches late onions; & other articles in proportion. He will either pay the money at the afors[d] cash price or the goods; the goods we must have now in harvest & he knows it, & other persons who have been at the troble of coming to us from a distance with boats & vessels loaded with salt & other articles we need, & by whom we could be supplied at a much more reasonable rate, are obliged to go away with their goods & cannot purchase a single bunch of onions. This obliges us to give twenty shillings for every gallon of rum; two shillings p pound for sugar; & seven shillings & four pence p bushel for Indian corn. In this manner our money has been depreciated nearly one half in a week or ten days, or rather annihilated, as the people become afraid to receive it as having any value; last week, Indian corn sold by the farmers at four shillings p bushel, & other articles at the price affixed by Congress; now they are not to be sold, (onions excepted, which would not be offered in market, we trust, were they not perishable goods). The goods this man deals out seem not to be all his own, but

belong to others. We have remonstrated to him against such conduct, & his answer to us is, he will do according to the orders he receives from the owners of the goods, & we cannot learn they will allow him to sell at a lower rate. The consequence is fatal to our new bills & takes from us half the value of our summer's labor; the goods are now extremely wanted by the farmer, & we cannot learn they are to be had at any other store in town but one which deals in the same way. We understand he is now attempting to compel a compliance with his terms by withholding the goods, and should he effect it, he may next week put down the price of onions to two pence p bunch & raise his rum to forty shillings p gal^{n}. We are inform^{d} he has already reduced the price of onions to three pence p bunch; hence it is evident we labor under the influence of one of the most oppressive & injurious regulating acts which ever was constructed, a regulating act, not made by a legislative body! but by the conscience or rather avarice of the purchaser, who sets his own price on our goods & on his own, an act subject to momentary alterations, according to the cravings of the purchaser. We are not under the least apprehension that your Excellency & Council had any idea that what we here relate would have been the consequence of extending the embargoe, but that the design was benevolent to our country & ally. Twill be very difficult to prevent others from taking the like advantage altho this purchaser should be displaced, provided the embargoe is continued on this article, since tis so perishable that a sale must be speedy. Tis probable that before the second crop ripens, the command of the Sound will belong to our freinds, and the first is mostly or wholly bought up; there will be no danger of their going to New York. The reasons operating in favor of an embargoe do not, we conceive, obtain in this instance. There certainly is no scarcity; the quantity is visible

and in one or two towns; they cannot from their perishable nature be withheld by the raiser; there is no danger of an exorbitant demand in point of price, since the price set is as much as the people desire; they are at a great distance from the enemy & must be conveyed by one single channel out of the State. The disadvantages of an embargoe on other articles we suffer in common with our brethren, in this almost solely.

Our request is, that the embargoe on this article may be removed; we are content that the army should have all we raise & at the price offered, but would be glad to go to any stores we chuse to sell them (which are among us) & that such persons as have a desire to come among us & sell their commodities to us, provided they are freinds to the country, may have the liberty to supply us at a reasonable rate. We beleive the French fleet would be much cheaper supplied in this way than by the present mode; & that they could purchase rum with their bills & afford to retail it here at twelve shillings Connecticut currency p gallon, & other articles in proportion, whereas in the way discribed they pay fifteen shillings sterling p gallon. We are both able & willing to supply the French navy & army with more onions than they can consume & at a reasonable price; but cannot be willing to have one of our neighbours placed as a bashaw over us, to order & direct our property as his wisdom & avarice shall dictate, & depreciate our money as best suits his caprice or intrest, which has already done more to effect that purpose than half a dozen shops from Long Island could have effected in so short a time; we cannot submit to such arbitrary domination as this man exercises, while we have the semblance of liberty left, but shall do everything in our power to oppose him in his purchases, & any other person who observes the same ruinous and oppressive line of conduct towards us. With the fullest confidence of releif by your Excel-

lency's paternal exertions in our favor, we are, with the highest esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient & humb^{l} ser^{ts}.

ELISHA WILLIAMS
THO^{S} BELDEN } *Justices.*

JN^{O} CHESTER
JOSEPH STILLMAN } *Selectmen.*

JN^{O} BELDEN
ELIJAH WRIGHT
JA^{S} LOCKWOOD
OTHNIEL WILLIAMS
JN^{O} FRANCES
ELIZ^{R} GOODRICH
JOSIAH HART
S. M. MITCHELL
JOSIAH HART
W^{M} STRONG
BENJ^{A} CATLIN
GEO : STANLEY
JOSEPH FARNSWORTH
AMOS FOX
SAM^{LL} CURTISS
EPHRAIM DEMING
ELIAS ROBBINS
MICHAEL BRIGDEN
DAVID BEADLE
ELISHA DEMING
JN^{O} BULKLEY
CHARLES BULKLEY
APPLETON ROBBINS
CHESTER WELLS
JOSIAH DEMING
EDMUND DORR.*

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed : 19th July, 1780. Weathersfield Memorial *de* Onions, &c., rec^{d} 22nd ins^{t}, A. M. p Col^{o} Elisha Williams.

RESOLVE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS. } IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. July 19th, 1780.

Whereas since the arrival of the fleet and army of His Most Christian Majesty into the harbour and town of

* The signatures to this memorial are all in one handwriting, and the document itself is probably a copy. — EDS.

Newport, the officers thereof residing in said town have been supplied with bread by the bakers of said town, which hath greatly increas'd the consumption of flour, and unless an immediate supply can be obtaind the inhabitants of said town will be distressed and prevented from affording the supply requir'd in future for the use of said officers: Wherefore Resolved that his Excellency the Governor be requested to write to his Excellency Governor Trumbull, and request him to permit five hundred barrels of flour to be purchased in the State of Connecticut and brought from thence into the town of Newport for the use aforesaid: And Mr. George Champlin of said Newport is hereby appointed in behalf of said town to procure the same to be purchas'd, agreeable to the permission which may be obtaind for that purpose, and applied to the use aforesaid.

A true copy, duly examined,
Witness,

WILLIAM MUMFORD, *D. Secry.*

Indorsed: 19th July, 1780. Resolve of the State of Rhode Island, *de* flower, &c., recd p Mr Champlin, 22nd inst.

WILLIAM GREENE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEWPORT, July 19th, 1780.

SIR, — I was on the 17th instant favourd with yours of the 14th and have laid the same before the General Assembly at the present session.† They are fully impress'd with the necessity and propriety of the measure propos'd, and have requested me to inform you that they will appoint a Committee to attend at Boston, for the purposes mention'd in your letter, on Wednesday the twenty-sixth

* For notice of Governor Greene, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 236 *n.* — EDS.

† Governor Trumbull's letter is printed in Rhode Island Colonial Records, vol. ix. p. 153. — EDS.

day of July instant; I shall immediately communicate this Resolution to the President of the Council of the State of Massachusetts-Bay: The General Assembly being sincerely desirous of accomodating the officers of the army and navy of his Most Christian Majesty now at this place, and of furnishing them with the necessary supplies, have pass'd a Resolution a copy whereof at their request I now inclose you. I must request your attention to this Resolution, and that you would be pleas'd to grant permission for the purpose therein mention'd, as it will be otherwise impracticable to procure the necessary supply of flour.

I am, with esteem & regard,
Sir, your obed^{t}, hble serv^{t}.
W. GREENE.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 19th July, 1780. Gov^{r} Green, p M^{r} Champlin, *de* Flower, rec^{d} & answ^{d} 22nd ins^{t}.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, July 22, 178[0.]

SIR, — Your Excellency's several letters to the President of Congress of the 10th instant were received and publickly read. No measures have yet been taken by the Board of Treasury for sending Commissioners to settle accounts in the several States, which they are fully authorized to do by a late resolution of Congress. As I am at present a member of that Board I shall do every thing in my power to forward that business which has been too long delayed. Your Excellency's letter of the 8th of June last was referred to a Committee, who reported thereon the 6th of July, "That all the creditors of these United States who have not been paid their just demands shall be intitled to recieve in the present money to the full value of the sums due to them respectively,

at the time they ought to have been paid." When the report was taken up in Congress there was no objection to making just allowance for the depreciation, but that it was necessary to point out some mode for the adjustment of the sums due, and therefore it was recommitted, and will, I suppose, be again reported on very soon. Congress seem disposed to do justice in every case as far as is practicable.

Our affairs have been considerably retarded and embarrassed for want of money, and for want of proper arrangements of the staff departments. A new arrangement of the Quarter Master's Department has lately been established which provides for the receiving, safe keeping and transportation of the provisions and other supplies to be purchased by the several States, pursuant to the resolution of the 25th of February last, and for procuring other supplies. All the officers employed will be on salary & not commissions; issuing posts in the country are to be discontinued. I believe it will be a means of saving considerable expence if duly executed, tho' not so much as could be wished. New arrangements are also ordered for the Commissary's and Medical departments, to be made by the Committee at Head Quarters & reported to Congress.

We are informed that Admiral Graves has lately arrived at New York with six ships of the line, from 60 to 80 guns; General Washington writes that his arrival will make no alteration in his plan of operations. We have had accounts of the arrival of the French fleet at Newport on the 10th instant, but no particulars, in what force or in what condition. We hear from New York, that one 74 gun ship of Graves's fleet was sunk by the French fleet, and that the French fleet is much shattered. The people in the several States seem to be animated to vigorous exertions. A few months or weeks may be productive of very important events to this country. May

the omnipotent disposer of all events over-rule them for the best good of these States.

I understand that of late the army have been well supplied with provisions. I am sorry that the State of Connecticut have had occasion to emit so large a sum in bills of credit previous to their being furnished with the bills prepared by order of Congress, but am glad to hear that they have laid so large a tax to be paid in the new bills. I esteem that to be a very wise measure to introduce the bills into circulation with full credit, and ought to be imitated by all the other States. I am fully perswaded that no way can be devised, in our circumstances, to support the value of a paper currency but by taxing to the full amount of our expenditures, after having emitted a sufficient sum for a medium of trade, which is limited by the resolution of Congress to ten millions of dollars for the thirteen States; and if the particular States extend their emissions beyond their quotas of that sum, it will in my opinion give a fatal blow to the credit of the whole paper currency, and involve us in worse evils than we have heretofore experienced. Therefore I think that no supposed necessity, or other consideration whatsoever, should induce any State in the least degree to exceed the limit fixed by the United States by the resolution of the 18th of March last. I am sensible that it was necessary to make some State emissions before those bills were prepared, but then I think they should be considered as part of their quotas of the ten million dollars. The resources of this country are great and may be drawn out in so equable a manner by the wisdom of the Legislatures of the several States as fully to answer the exigencies of our affairs, without being very burthensome to the people. It may be necessary to run in debt for some foreign articles, but I think not for any that are to be procured in this country. I shall return home by the middle of August, so as to attend the circuit, if relieved by the

arrival of another delegate. Mr Root writes me that he dont expect to come 'till the beginning of October. I have wrote to General Wolcot, but have not yet received an answer.

The bank set up here for the supply of the army I hope will be attended with some good effect. They purchase flour delivered in this city at £80, Pennsylvania currency, in continental bills, p C, which at 60 for 1 is equal to 21/4 lawful money of Connecticut. Of the new bills have been sent to Connecticut about half their quota, to New Hamshire their whole quota, to Massachusetts, including what is now sent by Brown, 540,000 dollars. The quota for N. York is done, but not sent forward, the quota for New Jersy will be printed next. Eight States have adopted the measure, and we hear that Virginia has, which will make nine. Delaware has not yet, and we have no account from N. Carolina. South Carolina is not in a condition to do it at present. I hope General Gates will be able to collect such a force as to re-establish civil government there.

I am, with great respect and esteem,

Your Excellency's obedient, humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

ROGER SHERMAN AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, July 22d, 1780.

SIR, — The Journals of Congress for June last are printed and will be forwarded to your Excellency in the

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* Benjamin Huntington was born in Norwich, Conn., April 19, 1736, and graduated at Yale College in 1761. He studied law, acquired a high rank in his profession, and was called to fill various offices in Connecticut, though not much inclined to public life. From 1780 to 1784 and in 1787, 1788, he was a member of the Continental Congress; and he was also a member of the House of Representatives in the First Congress under the Constitu-

usual channel, together with such copies as are ordered immediately.

It is with concern we observe the exigences of the public have been such as obliged our State to issue large emissions of paper bills which, with what will issue in pursuance of the Resolutions of the 18th of March last, may endanger the public credit. The only way to avoid this evil is speedily to draw in those bills by taxes and not suffer them on any account to re-issue. Paper money does its office when it goes out in payment and ought to be among the people as a medium of trade no longer than to find its way into their pockets, and like private security should be destroyed when returned into the office it issued from. This is doing business in sight of the people, and every man who pays his tax knows he does it discharge [*sic*] of much of his public debt. But to reissue bills taken in by loans & taxes accumulates the public debt in a way not open to the inspection of the people. They see the bills are not redeemed and are told they never will be. The credit of the State is scrupled and depreciation ensues. The people loose their confidence in government, the laws are enervated, military opperations prevented, justice impeeded, trade embarrased, the morals of the people corrupted, men of integrity in office abused and resigning whilst peculators ride in coaches. These evils and the sources from whence they arise, so lately experienced, all serve to point out the way to avoid them in future. The design of Congress in limiting the amount of circulating bills within the United States will be wholly defeated by emissions from particular States, unless their amount is limited within the bounds, and issued in lieu of the quotas assigned by Congress, and be in fact drawn in before the general currency issues.

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tion, and a Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut from 1793 to 1796. He died in Rome, N. Y., Oct. 16, 1800. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Yale College, vol. ii. pp. 696–698; Huntington Family Memoir, pp. 88–90. — Eds.

Congress have established a new regulation of the Quarter Master's Department; it's now in the press and will be transmitted to your Excellency as early as possible. It is expected this new arrangement of that department will save great expence to the public.

We are, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most humⁱ servᵗˢ.

ROGER SHERMAN.

BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

His Excʸ Govʳ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 22ⁿᵈ July, 1780. Messʳˢ Sherman & Huntington, recᵈ p Brown, 31ˢᵗ instᵗ, *de* bills of credit.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, 22 July, 1780.

SIR, — I am honored with your Excellency's three letters of the 10ᵗʰ instant and the papers to which they refer.

The Act of Congress appointing Commissioners to settle accounts in the several States, &c., referred to in my letter of the 18ᵗʰ of June, extends to all public accounts in any department (if my memory serves), and will be adequate to the purposes you mention of settling accounts in the Quarter Master's Department, as well as the Commissary's, and I hope a Commissioner will soon be ordered to Connecticut for that purpose. I am happy to find that the Act of Congress of the 19ᵗʰ of May respecting the ten millions of dollars to be paid into the Continental Treasury in thirty days, was received by Deputy Governor Griswold, and laid before the Assembly (in the absence of your Excellency), and by them referred to a Committee, of which Judge Sherman tells me he was one, and the necessary orders taken thereon.

I have received official intelligence that all the States north of Virginia, except Delaware and Rhode Island,

have adopted the resolutions of the 18th of March, and by my last from Govr Greene, he expected that State would adopt them in a few days, and the same is expected from Virginia.

I hope Connecticut will with the greatest expedition in their power call in the quota of Continental bills required of them; the sooner they are got out of circulation and sunk the better.

Had all the States adopted the resolution of the 18th of March, and acted thereon with the wisdom and decision Connecticut has done, we should have been extricated out of our embarrassments in a great degree and almost insensibly.

We have no later intelligence of consequence from the southern department than what you will receive in the paper inclosed.

I have the honor to be,
with every sentiment of respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedt, humble servant.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellv Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 22nd July, 1780. His Excellv Prest Huntington, *de* Comissioners, recd 30th ins per Brown.

RICHARD PETERS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr, Govr of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. (War Office).

WAR & ORDNANCE OFFICE, July 22d, 1780.

SIR, — The Board have been pressingly called upon by the Commander in Chief for a larger quantity of powder

* Richard Peters was born in or near Philadelphia June 22, 1744, and graduated at Philadelphia College in 1761. From June, 1776, to Dec., 1781, he was Secretary of the Board of War; and from April, 1792, until his death in Aug., 1828, he was Judge of the United States District Court for Pennsylvania. See Lanman's Biographical Annals, p. 331; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. pp. 743, 744. — EDS.

than the magazines of the United States can possibly supply, for the intended operations in concert with the fleet & armies of our allies. We need not impress upon your Excellency the necessity of complying with the General's request & how disgraceful wo[d] be our situation, if the operations in which our allies were invited by Congress to assist us were either retarded or totally obstructed by a failure on our part. Yet we are under the greatest apprehensions for the success of the intended measures, if we are not enabled by the generous & vigorous exertions of the respective States to afford supplies of many essential articles, among which that of powder is of the highest importance. We have therefore most earnestly to request of your Excellency & the Hon'ble Council that you would lend, out of the stores belonging to your State, all the powder you can possibly spare; & we have farther to entreat your strenuous endeavours to procure, on the credit of the State, as much as can be had from individuals, & that you will be pleased to take the earliest opportunity of informing us how much we are to expect from your State. Nothing shall be wanting to provide all we can on account of the United States; but we are convinced that without the assistance of the States individually we shall fall very short of the quantity required, & perhaps experience the most distressing disappointments from the want of this most essential article. We will when the continental magazines are replenished chearfully return in kind the powder you are pleased to lend us, or pay the value in money, as you shall choose. We hope the State will on this interesting occasion go to the extent of her abilities in the article required, & if hereafter, as the continental stock increases, any quantity shall be wanting for State's uses, in part of the quantity lent, we can at any time accomodate them when desired, & we shall not fail to

return the whole the first moment we have it in our power.

We have the honor to be,
with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's very obed^{t} serv^{ts}.
RICHARD PETERS,
By order & in behalf of the Board.

His Excellency The Governor of Connecticut.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HORATIO GATES.*

LEBANON, 25th July, 1780.

DEAR SIR, — Yours of the 23^{d} June last came to hand the 21st ins^{t}. I have fitted up and sent the map of the Carolinas you requested, and wish it safe to hand, and think it may be very usefull, if others are not to be found. May the Divine blessing accompany you, and grant you success.

The 11th instant Admiral Ternay arrived with seven ships of the line from France, one eighty, three seventy fours, and three sixty fours, one fifty guns, and some frigates, am uncertain of the number, with General Roshambeau, and five thousand men; a second division is soon expected.

M. General Heath writes me, Newport, 21st inst., 11 o'clo., P. M. This afternoon fifteen or sixteen British ships of war have appeared off this harbour, &c., *ut litera.* Maj^{r} Tallmage writes from Highlands, the 22nd ins^{t}, at 10 o'clo., P. M. That Greaves arrived in New York, is joined by Arbuthnot, and they are both sailed for Rhode-Island; that 8,000 troops are embarked at White Stone, that the enemy are embarking at East Chester, Greaves

* Printed from a draught or copy in Governor Trumbull's handwriting on the blank pages of General Gates's letter of June 23. — EDS.

six ships of the line, Arbuthnot three ditto, one 40 & 1, 50, and a number of frigates. This intelligence is directly from New York. We know not future events. Our consolation is *The Lord reigneth*, let us trust in him.

I am, with every sentiment of esteem & regard,

Dear General,

Your most obed^{t}, hble. servant.

J: T——LL.

P. S. Col^{o} Jonathan Trumbull returns his most respectful complements. Col^{o} John sailed in the Le Negresse for France the 7th of May last.

I am mourning under the loss of my dear consort; she departed this life the 29th May.

Hon^{ble} M. General GATES.

PROCEEDINGS OF A CONVENTION AT BOSTON.

At a Meeting of the Committees appointed by the States of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, New Hampshire, convened at Boston, on Thursday, the third day of August, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty.

Present.

The Hon^{ble} Thomas Cushing, Esq^{r}, Nathaniel Gorham, Esq^{r}, John Lowell, Esq^{r} } from the State of Massachusetts Bay.

The Hon^{bl} Jesse Root, Esq^{r}, from the State of Connecticut.

The Hon^{ble} John Langdon, Esq^{r}, from the State of New Hampshire.

The State of Rhode Island were notified of the Convention, approved of the measure, & appointed a Commissioner, but by some means he was prevented from attending.

The Commissioners present produced their several appointments and powers which are as follows.

STATE OF MASSA BAY } Council Chamber, July 24th, 1780.

Ordered, that the Honble Thomas Cushing, Esquire, Nathaniel Gorham, Esqr, and John Lowell, Esqr, be and hereby are appointed to meet and confer with such Commissioners as the States of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, & New Hampshire, or either of them, have or may appoint to consult and advise on all such businesses and affairs as shall be brought under consideration relative to the war, and to promote and forward the most vigorous exertions of the present campaign and to cultivate a good understanding and procure a generous treatment of the officers and men of our great and generous ally, and make report thereof accordingly.

True Copy. Attest.

JOHN AVERY, *D: Secry.*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

To ELIPHALET DYER, Esqr. By the Governor.

(SEAL)

You being appointed by the Governor and Council of Safety to meet with Commissioner or Commissioners who are or may be appointed and impowered by the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, or either of them, to consult and advise on the business and affairs necessary to promote and forward the most vigorous exertions in the present campaign, wherein these, with others of the United States, are called upon by the Committee of Congress by their letter of the 2d of June last, for specific aids of men, provisions, forage, and the means of transportation, and also wherein his Most Christian Majesty, the illustrious ally of the United States of America, hath undertaken to furnish and assist them with marine and

land forces, lately arrived at Newport, that there should be no failure on our part, nor any abuse or disappointment of the expectations and benevolent and good intentions of our foreign helpers, and that other affairs relative to the war brought under consideration, agreable to their or your instructions, may be settled and agreed upon.

Therefore you are hereby fully instructed, authorised and impowered to proceed to Boston, in the State of the Massachusetts Bay, with all convenient speed, there to meet with such Commissioners of said States as shall be appointed and authorised to consult and advise on all such businesses and affairs as shall be brought under consideration relative to the war, and to promote & forward the most vigorous exertions of the present campaign, and to cultivate a good understanding and procure a generous treatment of the officers and men of our great and generous ally, & make report thereof accordingly.

Given under my hand & seal at arms, this 17th day of July, 1780.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

(SEAL) By the Governor.

To JESSE ROOT, Esqr:

You being appointed by the Governor and Council of Safety to meet with Commissioners from the States of Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, & New Hampshire, in the room of Eliphalet Dyer, Esqr:

You are hereby authorised and impowered to proceed to Boston, with the same powers, authorities and instructions, given him the said Dyer by his annexed commission and instructions dated the 17th instant and to make report.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Lebanon, the 29th July, 1780.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, } In Committee of Safety, July 29th, 1780.

Resolved, that the Hon^ble John Langdon, Esq^r, be and hereby is appointed a delegate for & on behalf of this State to proceed to Boston, to join with such delegates as are, or may be, appointed by the States of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, & Rhode Island, to meet at Boston on the 2^d of August next, to consult & advise in all such business & affairs as shall be brought under consideration relative to the war, and to promote & forward the most vigorous exertions of the present campaign, & to cultivate good understanding and procure a generous treatment of the officers and men of our great and generous ally, or on any other matters that may be thought adviseable for the public good, and to report the proceedings of said delegates to this Committee, or the General Assembly of this State.

In behalf of the Com^tee.

JOHN LANGDON, Esq^r: M. WEARE, *Presid.*

After communication of the powers as above, the Convention made choice of the Hon^ble Thomas Cushing, Esq^r, for their President and Henry Alline as Clerk.

And then proceeded to consult and advise upon the means necessary to be imployed by the States they represent, to comply with the requisitions of Congress and of their Committee of Co-operation at Head-Quarters, and to carry on & render effectual the operations of the present campaign, and to support public credit; and having adjourned from day to day untill the ninth day of August instant. Agreed and Resolved to recommend to their respective States the following measures.

1^st. That notwithstanding these States have ordered the number of men required of them & made great exertions to raise them, and the greater part are already gone on to the army, yet as the intended operations of

the present campaign will not admit of any diminution of the force required, it is earnestly recommended to the several States represented in this Convention to cause their compliment of men to be immediately compleated.

2dly. That in order to preserve uniformity in the purchases in the different States aforesaid, and to prevent irregularity and disappointment in procuring and forwarding the supplies to the army, Resolved, That it be recommended to the Supream Executive of each State to direct the persons at the head of the purchasing department in them respectively to correspond with each other and as often as once every month to inform each other of the purchases they have made, what they have sent on, and what they will be able to furnish in the run of a month, with the average price they give.

3dly. Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States aforesaid, as a measure necessary, that they transport their quota of the supplies required to the army, or wherever the Commander in Chief or other proper officer shall direct, for the present, and untill other means of conveyance are provided, and charge the same to the United States, and to give information thereof to the Commander in Chief and the Committee of Co-operation.

4thly. Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States to impower the Chief Officer of the American troops serving with the allied army to take prudent measures to prevent any imposition or frauds being practiced by people bringing provisions, &c., to market at the army, by extorting exorbitant prices, or otherways, and to issue such orders from time to time as may have a tendency to induce people to bring plentifully to market & to sell at reasonable prices.

5thly. Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States that have Acts laying an embargo on the transportation of articles by land from one State to another to repeal them, as being unnecessary & tending

rather to injure than serve the common cause we are engaged to support & maintain, to continue embargoes on provision by water, and that particular care be taken to prevent all illicit trade with the enemy.

6ly. It is considered to be of great importance that the old Continental bills should be sunk agreable to the Resolution of Congress, in order to support the public credit; and that all the States should adopt effectual measures for that purpose:

Therefore Resolved, to recommend to our respective States to sink the quota of said bills assigned them by taxation as far as possible; and in case the whole cannot be sunk within the time limited by that means, that the States employ such other effectual measures for the purpose as shall be most agreable to them.

That each State immediately inform Congress of the measures they have taken, which were adopted in full confidence and expectation of the other States complying with the Resolution of Congress, which will be rendered extensively beneficial, only by the co-operation of all, & may be totally defeated by the failure of any.

7ly. Resolved, to recommend to each of these States as a necessary means to support the credit of the new bills immediately to establish funds for sinking annually, at least one sixth part of the bills they shall emit, pursuant to the Resolution of Congress, & that the tax for raising a fund for the first year be paid in silver & gold or the produce of the country, the other five years to be paid in silver & gold or the specific bills not to be reissued, that the credit of the paper bills may rest upon the funds provided for their redemption, as in our opinion every attempt to support their credit by forcing them into circulation tends to defeat the purpose & to depreciate them.

8ly. Resolved, to recommend to the States aforesaid not to emit any more bills on their own particular credit,

and in no case to have in circulation, at any one time, of both State & new Continental bills, more than the quantity assigned them by the Resolution of Congress.

9ly. Resolved, That it be recommended to the States aforesaid that whenever any soldier or seaman belonging to any of the said States, passing through another State, shall fall sick & be in want (where he cannot be conveniently sent to a public hospital) the selectmen and overseers of the poor of the town in which he shall so fall sick, &c., shall take care to provide for him necessary phissick & nursing at the expence of the State to which he belongs, keeping a particular account of the expences, and have the same subscribed by said soldier or seaman, with a certificate of the State, town, regiment & company, or vessell to which he belongs, whenever it can be done, which account shall be adjusted & paid in the first instance by the State in which he fell sick, and be reimbursed by the State to which he shall belong.

10ly. Resolved, That it be recommended to the States afores^d^ to use proper caution to prevent any improper articles of intelligence being communicated to the enemy thro' the channel of news papers or otherways to the prejudice of public measures.

11ly. Resolved, that it be recommended to the States afores^d^ that whenever any levies of men are called for from said States, the men procured or hired by one State, or their subjects from another without the licence of the State to which the man belongs, shall be counted to the quota of the State to which he belongs in like manner as soldiers raised for the Continental army.

12: Although in the opinion of this Convention no exertions ought to be spared on the part of these States to faciletate & carry into execution the measures adopted for the present campaign, yet they conceive it to be esential to our final safety, to the establishment of public credit, and to put a speedy and happy issue to the

present calamitous war, that the union of these States be fixed in a more solid and permanent manner, that the powers of Congress be more clearly ascertained and defined, and that the important national concerns of these United States be under the superintendency and direction of one supream head, that the proper estimates of our public wants be seasonably made, & the necessary resourses provided & regularly and economically drawn forth and expended. To that end

Resolved, That it be recommended to the States afores[d] to impower their deligates in Congress to confedirate with such of the States as will acceed to the confediration proposed by Congress, and that they invest their deligates in Congress with powers competent for the government & direction of all those common & national affairs which do not, nor can, come within the jurisdiction of the particular States, and that the States aforesaid represent to Congress the importance and necessity of their so doing, that they form a parmenent system, establishing proper boards, officers & regulations for the direction of the several departments necessary to be executed under Congress, to the end that proper estimates of the public wants may be seasonably made, and sufficient funds of money provided for answering the same from the States, or by foreign loans procured on the credit of the United States, that the resourses of the nation may be regularly drawn forth and economically expended, and that the States be seasonably called upon for supplies of men & money, for filling the public magazines, and the establishment of an army during the war.

13[ly] Resolved, That it be recommended to the States aforesaid, in order to prevent such embarrisments & expence as the States have laboured under in furnishing supplies for the present campaign hapning again, to request of Congress that effectual means be immediately employed to fill the public magazines & to raise men to

fill the Continental battalions for the war, by the first of January next. And it is further recommended that in case the war continues, and Congress should not take measures for the purpose, and notify the States aforesaid by the first of November next, that the said States do at all events furnish their quota of men & provisions, and charge the same to the United States, and to preserve uniformity in the measures which may be necessary to be taken by these States in common with each other, this Convention recommend a meeting of Commissioners from the several States, to be held at Hartford on the second Wednesday of November next, and envite the State of New York and any others to join them that shall think proper.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Convention be sent to the State of Rhode Island & New York with a letter from the President desiring their concurrence in the measures agreed upon, if they approve thereof.

THOMAS CUSHING, *President.*

BELA HUBBARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

NEW HAVEN, July 24th, 1780.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — In a late flag from New York to Fairfield was sent thirteen abstracts of the Incorporated Society in England for y^e^ propagation of the Gospel, &c., for mine & the use of the missionary clergy of this State, and were inspected by General Silliman, who tells me he thinks it his duty to hand them to your Excellency, & if passed by your Excellency he will deliver them to me. As I conceive it will appear to your Excellency that they are of much obvious use to

* For notice of Rev. Bela Hubbard, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 363 *n.* — EDS.

us of the clergy, insomuch as that without them we know not how to negotiate our bills, &c., and that the public are not at all concerned in the matter, I cannot but flatter myself your Excellency will forgive me the trouble this may occasion, and permit them to be sent to me, and your Excellency will very much oblige your very humble servant,

BELA HUBBARD.

N. B. A sermon of D^r^ Ingliss is in the like situation.

Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed : 24^th^ July, 1780. Rev^d^ Bela Hubbard, *de* Abstracts of the Society for Propagation of the Gospel — M^r^ Ingliss's sermon, rec^d^ 4^th^ Aug^t^ seq. p post. 4 dollars postage.

FREDERICK W. VON STEUBEN * TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut. Steuben.

FISH KILL, July 27, 1780.

DEAR SIR, — It is with the greatest pain I inform you that the arms we expected from France have not arrived, & that for want of them the operations of the campaign will be stop^d^, unless your State, as it always has, will still exert itself to remedy this evil by lending to the continent fifteen hund^d^ arms, with bayonets & cartridge boxes complete, for which I will pledge my honor that they be returned, & if any of them should be lost or spoil'd they shall be replaced with new French arms, as soon as the campaign is over.

If you render this essential piece of service to the continent, the arms must be forwarded immediately, as the troops are in the greatest want of them. I have made

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* For notice of Von Steuben, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 389 *n.* — EDS.

the same request to the State of Massa^{s} Bay, which I have evry reason to believe will be complied with.

I am, with the greatest friendship & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, hbe. ser^{t}.

STEUBEN, *Maj. General.*

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Fishkill, July 27th, 1780. Maj^{r} General Steuben, *de* Arms, rec^{d} 11th Aug^{t}, 1780.

JOHN DOUGLAS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency G^{r} Trumbull, Lebanon.

To Y^{E} CAP^{N} GEN^{LL}. SIR, — As I am directed by your Excellency order of y^{e} 24th ins^{t}, to forbare to deliver publick arms, except to y^{e} three months men, I desire to know my duty relative to delivering on the present emergency, in case the militia cannot be otherwise furnished.

The rest of your Excellency orders shall be comply with as fast as tis in my power.

I am, with esteem and reg^{d},

Sir, your hum^{le} serv^{t},

G^{r} TRUMBULL. J. DOUGLAS, *B. Gen^{l}.*

Indorsed: 28th July, 1780. B. General Douglass, *de* arms, rec^{d} idem.

WILLIAM HEATH† TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW PORT, July 30th, 1780.

SIR, — Yesterday I was honored with yours of the 27th instant, and immediately communicated the contents to his Excellency Count de Rochambeau. The Count has desired me to express the gratitude and obligation he feels for the attention of the authority of the States,

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* For notice of General Douglas, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 176 *n.* — EDS.

† For notice of General Heath, see *Ibid.*, p. 301 *n.* — EDS.

to whom application has been made for aid, and the cheerfulness with which it has been granted. This forenoon the Count express'd his pleasure that all the militia which had arrived to his assistance, or that are on their march for that purpose, except the three months militia from Rhode Island and Massachusetts, should return home immediately to attend to their domestic affairs, which at this time peculiarly call for their attention. By a letter received this forenoon from General Parsons, we learn that the transports that were in the Sound, and supposed to have taken in troops at White Stone, lately sailed to the westward; part of the troops at West Chester had marched to New York Island, and Col° Simcoe with about 500 men had marched towards the east end of Long Island, probably to collect the cattle.

This day about noon the British fleet, which for some time has lain at anchor off the east end of Block Island, came to sail and stood out to sea. Whether this was on account of the wind comeing east, which rendered their station rather unsafe, or for other reasons, time must discover.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
Your Excellency's most obed^{t} servant.
W. Heath.

Governor Trumbull.

Indorsed: 30th July, 1780. M. General Heath. General Rochambeau's thanks, &c., rec^{d} 1st Aug^{t} seq.

WILLIAM HEATH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Newport, July 31, 1780. 5 o'clock, P. M.

Sir, — About noon I was honored with yours of the 29th instant, and most sincerely thank you for the intelligence communicated. Similar intelligence has been received within these few hours past from General Wash-

ington, General Howe, General Parsons, &c. Orders are sent out for the immediate return of the militia of this State (Rhode Island) and neighboring parts of Massachusetts. I have not call'd for the return of any (in the first instance) from Connecticut, not knowing but the enemy may land at New London or elsewhere in your State, where the presence of all your militia may be necessary; but should the enemy pass you, I request that your Excellency would give orders for the militia to march this way with all possible expedition. It is said the enemy have a train of heavy cannon and some mortars with shells, carcasses, &c., on board. General Washington had put his army under marching orders and will probably move as occasion may require.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient serv^{t}.

W. HEATH.

Governor TRUMBULL.

P. S. Your Excellency is sensible of the shortness of provisions in this quarter. I would request that your Commissary, if it be in his power, may forward to Mr. Commissary Southwick, by the way of Providence, some flour, hard bread, or meal. I am more concern'd lest a scarcity of bread should distress us than any other consideration, as the militia may not be able to subsist without it.

W. H.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN.*

LEBANON, August 8th, 1780.

SIR, — I recievd yours of the 4th instant wherein you inform of many difficulties with respect to the State

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* For notice of General Silliman, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 98 *n*. The letter to which this is the answer is not in the Trumbull Papers. — EDS.

guards, their complaints, &c., requesting to be resolved in sundry doubts respecting them & other matters in which I shall indeavour to give you all the satisfaction I am at present able. You in the first place inform that the business of making the fascines, &c., goe on very heavily & that some of the guards wholly decline doing any thing, untill they get their rations of provisions & rum, & that others will not even attend and remain at the guard house, but only that relief who are on guard for the day & that they claim the rest of their time to work for provisions. I am sensible notwithstanding all indeavours it has been impossible in your part of the country to procure sufficient provisions for the guards, & even for the militia which have often been sent there for your defence, but they doubtless depend on being compensated therefor in money, of which they have allready reciev^{d} some, and nothing but the exhausted state of our Treas^{y}, & the constant pressing demands to supply the Continental army, at present prevents, but no doubt they depend on justice being done them if they thoroughly attend to their duty, but if they refuse and work & labor for themselves to get their provisions, which we are not disposed refuse them when it cannot be procured any other way, a just consideration of that matter will doubtless be attended to, but depend they will be ready to do every reasonable service for the publick if they expect their full pay & rations to be made up to them. We shall give orders for some rum to be provided & sent forward to be dealt out to those who are, & when, in actual service & labor, & as I expect an Assembly will soon be called when their claims will be laid before them & hope some method will be provided that they may have their just pay and allowance, the amount of which I cannot at present inform you, as I have not all the Acts of Assembly which relate thereto before me.

You say you could wish to wait on two or three of this

Councill to visit the different posts & review the troops. &c., which might give a clearer idea of the importance of the posts, &c. We shall desire the judges of the Superior Court, who are of y^e^ Council of Safety & who will soon be in that quarter, to gain what knowledge they can while there.

You mention that you find that your command of the troops on duty in your brigade expires on the first of September & request that you may be relieved on that day by another Brigadier. The reason of your particular command being limited to that time was an expectation that the opperations of this year's campaine would have placed the Continental troops in such a situation before that time as to render all the State guards needless, but at present it appears that the opperations of the Continental army will not be so forward in the season as expected, therefore it may be necessary to continue the State guards longer, which will necessaryly require your command also to be continued, &, tho we entertain a good opinion of all our Brigad^rs^, yet your experience & particular knowledge of that part of the State & the necessary duty of the guards in that quarter gives you the preference there, & must therefore authorize and request your continuance in that command till a more favourable oppertunity presents for your being relieved.

You further request directions how you are to conduct in settling the accounts of the several Colonels in your brigade for monies they recievd, to pay out for bounties, of the sum lately sent you for that purpose. With respect to that matter you are in setling to attend to the late Resolve of this Councill which y^e^ pay table I trust have sent you, directing very particularly therein, which is that you call upon the Colonels to account with you for all the monies they have recievd from & produce proper vouchers for what they have paid out for bounties

& equipments according to Act of Assembly, & return you what they have not so paid out, which you will, as soon as may be, settle with the pay table; those Colonels who recievd the monies directly from the pay table by their order must be directed to settle with them. As to any allowance to the Colonels as muster masters, or Captains as recruiting officers, or for any of their services, you are entirely saved of any trouble on that head, for tho it was the opinion of the Council that some reasonable allowance should be made them, yet when the matter was put to the Assembly it was entirely negatived & no allowance made, tho they are not foreclosed of making their application therefor to the Assembly in future, if they shod see cause. By this you will see the matter of settlement will be made easy to you, & the trouble & difficulties you feard avoided by only attending simply to the Act of Assembly & resolves of this Council. You inform that Capt. Mead has totally failed of raising a company of rangers & that you have given orders to Coll. Mead to supply that deficiency & sent a return of what he has done which is approved, provided that no further additions be made to those allready enlisted, & that but one company draw pay at a time, & that as soon as any part of the Continental army be ordered & moved to the vicinity of Stanwich or below they be discharged.

I am, with esteem and regard,

Sir, your obedient, hble. servant.

J. T——LL.

B. General Silliman.

Indorsed: 8th Augt, 1780. To B. General Silliman, *de* sundry. Answer to his of the 4th inst.

COMPLAINT OF ROBERT STANTON AND OTHERS.*

Stonington, Aug^{t} 10th, 1780.

May it please your Excellency, — We your Excellency's complainants and petitioners beg leave at this time to lay a matter before your Excellency, which to us appears of the most alarming kind, and, as we conceive, of great importance both in its present operation, as well as future consequences.

About the 25th of July past we received undoubted information that an armed vessel from Long-Island, richly laden with British manufactures, had run down Fisher's Island Sound, and enter'd the mouth of Paucatuck River, which divides the State of Connecticut from that of Rhode-Island; said information was obtained from two armed boats commissioned from your office, who entered Stonington harbour and reported they had pursued said vessel down the Sound, and had made a demand, consonant to their duty, of the persons on board relative to their intentions and designs, together with what authority they were permitted to cruise in said armed vessel as above. They answered that said vessel was legally commissioned, and that they were possessed of a permission from Congress to transport goods and effects from Long-Island to any of the United States of America. The people of said armed boats, strongly suspicious of iniquity in the matter, made a second attempt to board said armed vessel, but were strictly prohibited by the people on board, and threatened even with destruction, should they prosecute their attempt, by cannon loaded, matches lighted, &c., a strong argument of the perniciousness of the undertaking. We, therefore, your

* The signatures to this Complaint and the body of the document are in one handwriting. The writing bears a general resemblance to that of the Representation from the Town of Wethersfield, but the minute points of difference are so numerous and so uniform as to leave it doubtful whether both copies are by the same hand. — Eds.

petitioners, upon the strongest ground of conjecture that said goods were illicitly conveyed from Long-Island to the main, did apply to proper authority, State of Connecticut, agreeable to the laws of said State, as well as Congress, and procured a proper warrant for the siezure of said goods, thereby endeavouring that a full discovery of the affair, by strict inquiry, might be made, and if any iniquitous transactions relative to said goods were committed, the conductors thereof might be detected, and the peace & safety of the community secured. In the prosecution of said business we found that said armed vessel was at a wharf the east side of Paucatuck River, within the State of Rhode Island. We therefore advanced into said State, and made application to authority within said State to have said warrant renewed, which was granted, and committed to a proper officer to execute, &c. By the way, we were seconded and encouraged by many of the good and respectable people of said State in the prosecution of said matter, who then appeared, and still continue, to express the highest indignation against that trade, which in its consequences must prove ruinous to the people of these States, — a justifiable resentment indeed. When we were possessed of positive assurance that every necessary expedient was obtained for legal procedure, we repaired to a store house belonging to Doct^{r} Joshua Babcock of Westerly, in which store said goods were deposited, but to our great surprize and astonishment we found said store under protection of the guns of said armed vessel, and a gentleman of rank and distinction, Col^{o} Henry Babcock by name, did so far proceed in the protection of said goods as to take the tomkins from the guns, prime them, light the matches, and in the most determined manner, to appearance, did declare he would defend said store and goods, to the destruction of the prosecutors, but as a state of determinedness on their part had taken place, they did pro-

ceed to enter said store, and made a tendry of said goods to the officer for seizure, &c., upon which he refused to serve said warrant, and did proceed to cover said goods under a protection (as we imagine fraudulently obtained) from the Governor of said State of Rhode Island, in consequence of which our procedure was quash'd, and every exertion on our part for making full discovery of the affair at that time defeated. We would observe, that at the time of our endeavouring to enter said store, some of the persons belonging to said vessel, and as we suppose interested in said goods, did publicly assure the officer that if he would desist from serving our warrant, they would indemnify him at all adventures. There were belonging to said vessel fourteen persons in number, who, tho' in character of mariners, &c., appeared to be gentlemen of distinction, elegance, &c., — an argument with us, of extensive connexion in said goods tho transported under the sanction of a permit granted to an individual. A copy of said permit, if obtainable, shall transmit enclosed. The grant of said permit is made to George Howell by name, belonging to the State of New York, & who has resided within the enemy's lines steadily, since the subjection of Long-Island to the British arms; and as we are informed, and confident can fully prove, has carried on an extensive and profitable trade within said lines, having been a purchaser of vessels, cargoes, &c., from us captured by the enemy. The names of the persons belonging to said vessel shall transmit, if they can be obtained, the principal part of the number we are informed are inhabitants of the State of Connecticut.

We beg leave to observe that a permit granted by the Hon^{ble} Continental Congress to any individual, more especially to one holding long residence within the enemy's lines, of so extensive a nature, being unlimited as to quantity or value, is to us unaccountable, and really irreconcilable to those favorable sentiments which we

have, and hope to have, of that august and respectable body; it really is a matter of general speculation, and what at this time generally commands the attention of the people of this quarter, who express strong desires that a full explanation of the matter may be obtained. Further the persons on board said armed vessels did publicly declare that the amount of value of said goods in said store was £10,000 sterling, and that the one half of those granted by said, or were intended to be transported under said, permission had not arrived, which fills us with strong apprehensions that said permit was fraudulently obtained, or iniquitously applied.

We would inform that said goods were removed from said store in Westerly for conveyance to Providence within said State, and when on their way complaint was made to the Governor of said State by the people of the eastern part of said State, setting forth their suspicions of iniquity in the matter, the quantity being so large and valuable, upon which the Governor was pleased to order the Sheriff in said State to sieze said goods, which was complied with, and the goods stored in the town of Greenwich, and, as we are informed, the Governor did personally appear, and, upon examination made, did release said goods from any further prosecution.

And now, may it please your Excellency, the intent and design of the foregoing complaint and representation must appear obvious. In that the Hon^ble^ Continental Congress have been pleased to enact laws for the regulation of trade and commerce, evidently designed and wisely adapted for the interest and security of the people of the United States, and which have been most laudably strengthned, supported and enlarged by your Excellency's exertion in Council, manifested in an act entituled An Addition to an Act to prevent illicit trade, &c., passed 2^nd^ Thursday of May, 1780, together with other Acts to prevent a trade with the enemies of the United States,

— a trade which in its consequences must prove destructive to the interest of the people, strongly tend to weaken the Continental army, by depriving the people of solid coin, the sinews of our present war, and the principal dependence and expectation of our soldiery in the present campaign.

And as the most zealous exertions in supporting the good & salutary laws of these States are necessary for the salvation of the whole, we do therefore implore your Excellency's interposition in the matter herein related, assuring ourselves, from your known character of strict justice in every department, and zealous attachment to the interest of your country, that your influence will be improved in laying the affair before Congress, that thereby a full discovery may be made, and if any thing iniquitous has been committed the perpetrators thereof may be brought to proper punishment; Otherwise, by a full explanation the country may be satisfied and relieved from their present disturbances, uneasinesses and jealousies, respecting so large, liberal and extensive permissions in a trade so strictly prohibited.

With the utmost respect & esteem, we subscribe,

Your Excellency's most devoted, humble servants.

ROBERT STANTON,
ANDREW PALMER,
PETER STATES,
CALEB BROWN,
JOHN COTTON ROSSETER,
Complainants.

WILLIAM LEDYARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW LONDON, 10th August, 1780.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The late alarms have prevented my informing your Excellency respecting the conduct of one Dr Howel, in bringing off from Long-

* For notice of William Ledyard, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 313 *n.* — EDS.

Island a large quantity of British goods about a fortnight since, at which time we had two armed boats, cruising with orders to take every vessel or craft they should find in the illicit trade & bring them into this port. Near Sag-harbour our boats came across a small sloop, armed with cannon, swivels & muskets, with about fourteen persons on board, chiefly dressed like gentlemen, among them the above named D^r^ Howel & one M^r^ Levingsworth, who appeared the chief directors. The officers commanding our boats demanded a sight of their permission, & by what authority they cruised on that coast, when M^r^ Leavingsworth & Doc^tr^ Howel shew'd them a commission for their sloop, & a permission sign'd by the President of Congress giving leave to said Howel to bring off all his effects from Long-Island to the State of Rhode Island, or any other of the United States. Said Howel further informed the officers of our boats that he had got but a part of his goods then on board, the remainder to the amount of ten thousand pounds sterling he was then going to take on board (the whole British manufactory). Our boats then left the sloop, one of which went to Plumb-Island to watch the motion of the sloop, whilst the other return'd to give information of the affair. After I had the officer's account of the matter, I gave him orders to return with his boat & join the other boat, & go & bring the sloop into this port, that a proper enquiry might be made into the affair, for I could not conceive that the Hon^ble^ Continental Congress would give a permission to any individual to bring off goods from Long-Island without limitation, & thought it was not a genuine one. When our boat was returning, she discover'd the sloop standing to the eastward with our other boat in chase of her, when she gave chase also down thro' Fisher's Island Sound. After several hours pursuit, the headmost boat came up with the sloop & endeavored to get on board, but was prevented by superiority of strength on board the

sloop. Our boats continued to pursue the sloop which they were informed by some persons on board was going into Stonington Harbour, but when the sloop came opposite the harbor she kept off. Our boats then went into the harbor for the purpose of getting a sufficient force to bring the sloop in, but before any such assistance could be obtaind the sloop ran up Pocatuck River & landed the goods in Doct^r^ Babcock's store.

I beg to inform your Excellency that when our boats ran along side of the sloop in the sound in order to go on board, the officer was told by some of the people on board the sloop, that if he attempted to come on board they would sink his boat, & some on board pointed a cannon or swivel with lighted torches for the purpose. Could wish this affair might be properly look'd into, as I find it gives a universal uneasiness to all people of character in this quarter.

I have the honor to be, your Excellency's
Most obed^t^, hum^le^ ser^t^.

(Copy) W^m^ LEDYARD.

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM GREENE.*

LEBANON, 17^th^ Aug^t^, 1780.

SIR, — This day is exhibited to me a complaint from a number of respectable persons at Stonington, Groton, and New London, relative to an armed vessel from Long Island, richly laden with British manufactures on or about the 25^th^ of July ult., had run down Fisher's Island Sound, and entered the mouth of Paucatuck River, which divides this State from that of Rhode Island; with an account of the proceedings thereon, and that the concerned in

* Printed from a draught or copy in the handwriting of Governor Trumbull. — EDS.

said goods were possessed of a permission from Congress to transport goods from Long Island to any of the United States of America. That the grant of said permit is made to Geo. Howel by name. That the amount of the value of the goods was declared to be £10,000 stlg., — informing that the complainants are filled with strong apprehensions that said permit was fraudulently obtained or iniquitously applied ; praying my interposition to lay the affair before Congress, which I shall do by an opportunity which presents directly, next Monday. I have seen the proceedings in your State. It appears to us here that such intercourse with the enemies of these States is attended with the most dangerous consequences. It tends to concilliate our people with those who mean to subjugate us and bring us to an unconditional submission, to exhaust us of our specie, and to harden the minds of men in the apprehensions that their interest lyes in such trade & intercourse, and to break through every means to prevent it.

'Tis apprehended that the Hon^{ble} Congress (if such grant hath been made) were grossly imposed upon, and the permit used contrary to their meaning & intention.

This Geo. Howel is undoubtedly an inimical person to the liberties of the United States ; has been some time at Hartford, pretending friendship ; was permitted to return to Long Island ; there, it is said, he acted a very inimical part, and is now clandestinely endeavouring to sap the foundation of our credit, and pursue measures which will injure us in the most tender and vulnerable part.

It is thought that all those goods ought imediately to be seized and held 'till proper enquiry is made. Doct^{r} Howel is undoubtedly an emissary from the enemy and pursuing instructions tending to our ruin. It is wished that you would recall your permit and seize both Howell and the goods bro't in by him, untill the affair

can be fully explored, and such proceedings had thereon as may tend to our security.

I shall have an answer by Messenger Brown, who goes on to Congress next Monday, and will return in about three weeks, which shall be comunicated to you imediately on receipt thereof.

I am, with esteem & regard,

Sir, your obed^{t}, hble. servant.

J. T——LL.

His Excellency Gov^{r} GREEN.

Indorsed: 17th Aug^{t}, 1780. To Gov^{r} Green, *de* D^{r} Howel's Goods, sent into the line of Expresses p M^{r} Russel Hubbard.

PHILIP SCHUYLER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

ALBANY, August 18th, 1780.

SIR, — The strong attachment which many of the hostile tribes of Indians still retain for the French has induced the enemy to contradict with great industry the information I have repeatedly sent them that France was in alliance with us, and that she would assist us with troops. A present has been sent for the Onidas from France at the request of the Marquis de la Fayette, to receive this, and that I may have it in my power to send Indians to the westward and to Canada who have seen the French troops, I have conceived it my duty to dispatch a number to Rhode Island under the care of M^{r} James Deane; but destitute of money and incapable of procuring an adequate sum here to defray his expences, as there is not any in the public treasury, I have ventured to give him a draft on your Excellency for two hundred dollars of the new emission, which if you are so obliging as to honor, you will please to charge to the United States or to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs,

* For notice of General Schuyler, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 6 *n.* — EDS.

who will reimburse it, if necessary, as soon as Congress can be informed of the occasion and give the necessary directions.

I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER,
President of the Board of
Com^rs for Indian Affairs.

To His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL, &c.

Indorsed: 25th Aug^t, 1780. Gen^l Schuyler's of y^e 18th *de* Indian Visiters to the French army at N. Port, want of money, &c.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

WARWICK, Aug^t 19th, 1780.

SIR, — Your letter of the 17th I receiv'd this day; I am at a loss to know what you can see in the proceedings of this State, that gives you reason to think we hold an intercourse with the enemies of the United States attended with a long train of bad consequences. It is a character this State cannot be justly charged with. And I beleive are as free from it as any State in the Union. That Congress is imposed on in giving Howel a permit may be, but that is not a reason for doubting his having produced a real one here, which he did, wrote by the Secretary & sign by the President; and not being acquainted with what you've inform'd me induced this State to act as they did.

In consequence of your letter I have issued a warrant for apprehending Howell and seizing all his effects; have likewise sent a copy of your letter to Providence, to be forwarded to the Council at Boston, provided he may

have removed himself or effects from Providence to that place.*

I am, with respect & esteem,

Yours, &c.

W. GREENE.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 25^th^ Aug^t^, 1780, dated 19^th^ Aug^t^ ins^t^. Governor Greene's *de* M^r^ Howell's goods, &c.

JOHN MATHEWS† TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(Circular)

IN COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS,
CAMP TAPPAN, 19 Aug^st^, 1780.

SIR, — When America stood alone against one of the most powerful nations of the earth, the spirit of liberty seemed to animate her sons to the noblest exertions, and each man cheerfully contributed his aid in support of her dearest rights. When the hand of tyranny seem'd to bear its greatest weight on this devoted country, their virtue and perseverance appeared most conspicuous, and

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* At the session of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, in September, 1780, the following preamble and resolution were adopted: "Whereas Mr. George Howell preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that formerly he was an inhabitant of Long Island, in the state of New York, under the power of the fleet and army of the King of Great Britain; that being desirous of removing from thence, and of embarking his person and property in the cause of America, he made application to, and on the 7th day of July last obtained permission from, Congress for that purpose, with a passport, securing his person from imprisonment, and his effects from seizure; that on the 27th day of said July he requested of, and had liberty from, the Council of War of this state, to remove, with his property into this state; that having removed, with a part of his effects, he was on the 20th day of August last arrested by the sheriff of the county of Providence, in consequence of a warrant from his Excellency the Governor, upon suspicion of his being inimical to the United States; and that his goods were seized, and still remain in custody of the said sheriff; and thereupon prayed this Assembly that his person may be released, and his property restored to him; which being duly considered, —

"It is voted and resolved, that the said George Howell and his property, now in the custody of the said sheriff be released, upon his recognizing, with sufficient security, to appear at the General Assembly to be holden in October next, and answer such charges as shall then be exhibited against him." See Rhode Island Colonial Records, vol. ix. p. 235.— EDS.

† John Mathews was a member of Congress from South Carolina from 1778 to 1782, Governor of the State in 1782, and one of the Judges of the Court of Equity in 1784. He died in Charleston in November, 1802, aged fifty-eight. See Lanman's Biographical Annals, p. 277. — EDS.

rose superior to every difficulty. If then, such patriotism manifested itself throughout all ranks and orders of men among us, shall it be said at this day, this early day of our enfranchisement and independence, that America has grown tired of being free? Let us, Sir, but for a moment take a retrospective view, of our then situation, and compare it with the present and draw such deductions from the premises as every reasonable man, or set of men, ought to do. In the early stage of this glorious revolution we stood alone. We had neither army, military stores, money, or in short any of those means which were requisite to authorize a resistance. The undertaking was physically against us. But Americans abhorred the very idea of slavery! Therefore reposing the righteousness of their cause in the hands of the supreme disposer of all human events, they boldly ventured to defy the vengeance of a tyrant and either preserve their freedom inviolate to themselves and posterity, or perish in the attempt. This was the situation and temper of this country in the beginning of this controversy. At this day, America is in strict alliance with one of the first nations of the earth for magnanimity, power, and wealth, and whose affairs are conducted by the ablest statesmen, with a prince at their head who hath justly acquired the title of the protector of the rights of mankind. A respectable fleet and army of our ally are already arrived among us, and a considerable reinforcement is hourly expected, which when arrived will give us a decided superiority in these seas; the whole to co-operate with the force of this country against the common enemy. Another powerful nation (Spain), tho not immediately allied with us, yet in fighting her own she is daily fighting the battles of America, from whence almost every advantage is derived to us that could be produced in a state of alliance. An army we now have in the field, part of whom are veterans equal to any the oldest estab-

lished nations can boast. Our militia from a five years war are become inured to arms. You have at the head of your army a General whose abilities as a soldier and worth as a citizen stand confessed, even by the enemies of his country. Our officers of all ranks are fully equal to the duties of their respective stations. Military stores are within our reach. Our money, tho not so reputable as that of other nations, with proper attention, we have reason to expect, will shortly emerge from its present embarrassed state and become as useful as ever.

Now, Sir, from a comparative view of our circumstances, at the beginning and at this day, how much more eligible, how much more pleasing and important must the latter appear than the former to every dispassionate man? Then shall we leave to future generations to say, shall we at present commit ourselves to the world to exclaim, that when providence had benignly put into our hands the most essential means of obtaining by one decisive blow the inestimable prize we had been contending for, it was lost, disgracefully lost, for want of proper exertions on our part? That avarice, luxury, and dissipation had so enervated the boasted sons of American freedom, that rather than forego their present ease and wanton pleasures they would tamely, cowardly submit to the loss of their country and their liberty and become those abject slaves which their generous natures, but a few, very few years before, would have revolted at the bare idea of.

These reflections arise, Sir, from the extraordinary backwardness of some States and great deficiencies of others in sending the men into the field that were required of them near three months ago, and ought to have joined the army fifty days past; and an apprehension that from this torpitude America has forgot she is contending for liberty and independence, and that the good intentions of our generous ally will be totally frustrated by our unpardonable remissness. Our former letters to

the States have been full on this very important subject, and we are concerned to be driven to the necessity of reiteration, but our duty to our country, our respect for the reputation of the Commander in Chief of our army, impel us to it; for, a knowledge of the force that has been required of the States for the campaign, and which was allowed to be adequate to an important enterprize, will induce a belief in our countrymen, in the world, that it has been furnished, and they must stand amazed to see our army inactive, and things not in that train for operation which ought in such a case to be expected, especially at this advanced season of the year. Again, the force of our ally now with us and the shortly expected arrival of its several divisions must clearly evince the utility of our army's being put in a condition to undertake an enterprize, which if successful must give a deadly wound to our unrelenting and ambitious foe. But what apology can be made if, when the Commander in Chief of our army should be called on by the Commander of the forces of our generous ally, and informed he is ready to undertake with him whatever measures he shall think proper to point out, he shall be reduced to the cruel necessity of acknowledging his inability to engage in any enterprize that can possibly redound to the honor or reputation of the arms of either nation? Sir, the reflection is too humiliating to be dwelt on, without the extremest pain; nay horror!

You must pardon us, worthy Sir, for the freedom with which we have now delivered our sentiments on this truely interesting subject. We flatter ourselves great allowances will be made for our situation, when we daily have before our eyes specimens of that want of energy in conducting our affairs which must shortly so far embarrass us as to render all future exertions inadequate to the attainment of those great purposes at which we aim. America wants not resources; we have men (in-

dependent of those necessary for domestic purposes) more than sufficient to compose an army capable of answering our most sanguine expectations. And our country teems with provisions of every kind necessary to support them. It requires nothing more than a proper degree of energy to bring them forth, to make us a happy people. This we trust, Sir, the State over which you preside will shew no reluctance in contributing her aid to, by taking such decisive measures as will without loss of time bring into the field the remainder of your quota of men that have been required for the campaign.

The articles of provisions, forage, and teams are no less important than men; but as the Committee had the honor of addressing you, but a few days ago on the subject of provisions; and the other articles being so nearly allied with that, we will not intrude it on you at this time.

Inclosed is the copy of a letter from the Commander in Chief of the 17th instant to the Committee. It will fully shew you the state of the army at this time, and how great a deficiency of men there is to what there ought to have been before this day. However we hope, Sir, it will be no discouragement to your State, to using their utmost exertions for furnishing the remainder of their troops to join the army as soon as possible; and that the idea of its being probably too late before a sufficient force can be collected to promise a successful campaign will be totally banished: for policy, as well as interest, dictate to us to be always prepared to take advantage of every favourable conjuncture, and it is impossible to say how soon such a one will present itself.

The General's letter* treats this subject in every other

* The letter referred to is printed in Ford's edition of the Writings of George Washington, vol. viii. pp. 383–386. — Eds.

respect so fully as renders it unnecessary to add more than that we have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect, Your Excellency's
Most obedient, hble. servant.
In behalf of the Committee,
Jn° Mathews.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r.

Indorsed: 19th Aug^t, 1780. Com^tee of Cooperation with the Army, *de* recruits of the Army & supplies, &c.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Warwick, 22nd August, 1780.

Sir, — In consequence of your request, as I have informed you, I have issued my precept for the apprehending Doct^r George Howel, who is now here under the care of the officer who served the warrant upon him this morning, he having been absent from Providence, where he has been disposing of his goods, on a journey to Newport. I now give your Excellency this information that you may give orders for procuring what proof there may be to be obtained against the said Howel's conduct, and shall wait your further advice in this matter, shall be glad to hear from [you?] by next Monday at farthest, as the Council of War are to be convened on that day in consequence of other business.

I am, with much respect & esteem,
Your most obedient, &c.
W. Greene.

His Excellency Gov^r Trumbull.

Indorsed: 25th Aug^t, 1780, dated 22nd Aug^t, Gov^r Greene, *de* Howell, &c.

ROGER SHERMAN AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. To His Ex^y Governor Trumbull, Lebanon, Connecticut. Frankd. B. Huntington.

PHILADELPHIA, August 22^d, 1780.

SIR, — The inclosed papers contain the most recent intelligence we have of a publick nature from abroad. The armed nutrality of so many powerful nations in Europe, together with the commotions in England, are by no means discouraging to these States. A letter from M^r Jay, at the Spanish Court, dated at Madrid the 27^th of May last, mentions that in conference with a Spanish Minister he rec^d encouragement that the bills of Congress drawn on him to the amount of one hundred thousand pounds sterling would (with some difficulty) be honored, that they had also conferred on the subject of a treaty but come to no conclusion. Congress have recalled their Committee from Head Quarters, which will prevent any further correspondence with those gentlemen in that capacity. Maj^r Gen^l Green has resigned his office of Quarter Master General, and Col. Pickeran * is appointed & in the execution of that trust.

All the States (excepting Delaware) as far southward as Virginia inclusively have adopted the Resolutions of Congress of the 18^th of March, and will be furnished as fast as possible with their several quotas of the new bills, which are exceedingly wanted in every department. If every State would tax themselves to the extent of their abilities, relieving the poor as far as possible, we should find it the best resource in our power to obtain supplies and save the continent from that enthralment of debt which may be expected from loans. This doctrine (tho'

* Timothy Pickering. — EDS.

trite) is no less important than true, and deserves the most serious attention.

The current expences of the war are chiefly of our own services, provisions & manufactures, which do not much exceed our annual exports in time of peace. This alone is demonstration that our internal resources are nearly equal to our necessities and might, with proper management, be so applied as to prevent an innormous national debt to foreigners, who may hereafter claim the honor & merit of our whole salvation as due to them and surprize us with unexpected demands.

At present we have but a small prospect of loans from Spain, and as M^r^ Lawrens has lately sailed for Holland the success of his negotiations will not soon be known.

We are, with sentiments of the highest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most humble servants.

ROGER SHERMAN.
BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 22^nd^ Aug^t^, 1780. Hon^ble^ Delegates from Connecticut, *de* Loans — Spain — Holland Bills — rec^d^ 5^th^ Sep^t^ inst.

JOHN BELL AND NATHANIEL SLASON TO JOHN MEAD.

MIDDLESEX, Aug^st^ 30^th^, 1780.

To COL^o^ JOHN MEAD.

S^R^, — On the night before the 29^th^ instant a party of the enemy from Long Island, in a hostile, violent manner entred the house of Jesse Raymond, of s^d^ Middlesex, & robbed or plundered him to the value of £150 in silver money besides breaking doors, windows, desks, cases of drawers, & the like, carrying off his best cloaths, striped his house of the greater part of his houshold utensils,

&c.;* the same night a party of the enemy from Long Island drew near Gorum's Mills, in s^d^ Middlesex, where they had lately been plundering sundry times, being hailed by the small guard there stationed for that night, the enemy, being greatly superior to the guard in numbers, fired on them, whereby one of the guard unfortunately was killed by them & 2 other of s^d^ guard were wounded.

Inasmuch as this particular place is so infested, we desire & request that some way may speedily be devised for our relief, & that a company may be granted to us as a guard on each side of Five Mile River, which might be a help to each other. The above request is in behalf of ourselves & the rest of the inhabitants.

CAPT. JOHN BELL.
CAPT. NATHANIEL SLASON.

Indorsed: Aug^t^ 30^th^, 1780. Cap^ts^ Bell & Slason to Col^o^ Mead *de* Incursions of the Enemy to Middlesex — a Guard at Middlesex.

ROGER SHERMAN AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esquire, Governor of the State of Connecticut.

PHILADELPHIA, Sep^r^ 1, 1780.

SIR, — We were honored with your Excellency's letter of the 21 August. The enclosed papers contain the best intelligence we have from the southward; our affairs there appeared prosperous, our army gaining strength, & in several instances considerable advantages against the enemy, until the battle near Camden on the 20^th^ day of last month; they were overpowered by a superior force and met with a total defeat. This loss will not be easily

* See the Inventory, *post*, pp. 148–150. — EDS.

retrieved; the Southern States seem disposed to make as vigorous exertions as their circumstances will admit.

The fluctuating state of our money, and the want of sufficient supplies of it, have been the principal causes of the wants of the army. When the States were called on for their monthly quotas of 15 millions of dollars the estimates were made at the rate of twenty for one; but before the taxes were collected the prices of supplies were at 60 for 1, which made a deficiency of two thirds of the estimates. When the States were applied to to furnish their quotas of provisions it was expected that the legislatures would only appoint commissaries to purchase them, and that the Quarter Master's department would have been so regulated as to have received the provisions from the State commissaries into proper magazines, and have transported them to the army. This regulation was delayed about four months by referring it to the Committee sent to head-quarters, who, instead of compleating it immediately, applied to the executive powers of the States to do the business proper for Quarter Masters, &c. Congress have appointed a Committee to make estimates for the current year up to the 1 March next, and also for the next year, who have made considerable progress in the business. Congress have also made provision for making good the depreciation to creditors who have furnished supplies, founded on your Excellency's letter of the 8th June last, a tax is also recommended to raise money for the payment of the public debts to the amount of three millions of dollars; this tax is likewise intended as a means of introducing the new bills into circulation in full credit.

The proceedings of the Commissioners from the several States convened at Boston were read and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means. We are pleased to find their sentiments correspond with the measures that have been lately adopted by Congress.

The affair of the protection granted to George Howel we apprehend is not rightly understood by those who complain of it. D^r^ Howel was represented to Congress as a person who was a minor when the enemy came to Long Island, that he is now under twenty two years of age, lived with his father, and had taken no part in the present controversy, but was well affected to this country, and was determined if possible to get from under the power of the enemy, with all his effects, and settle in some one of the United States. These things were not only said by himself, but confirmed by Doct^r^ W^m^ Smith, late of Long Island, who has been for some years a surgeon in the Continental hospital, & served with fidelity and reputation. Your Excellency, we believe, has some knowlege of him, both he & D^r^ Howell are well known to Col. Floyd. It was well known to Congress that his effects were chiefly English goods which he had obtained by drawing a prize in the British State Lottery.

There was nothing mandatory in the protection granted by Congress, or that interfered with the laws or government of any State, but it was a notification that Congress approved of his coming off from Long Island with his effects, and a protection against capture by cruisers under commissions from the United States. There is a general resolution of Congress, that persons coming from Great Britain or Ireland with their effects to settle in these States shall be exempted from capture, and a protection was lately granted to Doct^r^ Shields & some other gentlemen from Ireland to bring their effects to this city. And does not justice, as well as policy, require that citizens of any of the United States, should be protected in coming with their property from under the power of the enemy, who have not forfeited that right by any crime against their country?

If this person has been guilty of any fraud by covering illicit trade under his protection, we wish he may be

detected & suffer; but we have no suspicions of that kind, but believe he has an honest *bona fide* intention to get and keep clear of the enemy.

The several resolutions which concern the States, will be forwarded to your Excellency by the President.

We are, with sentiments of the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's obedient, humble servants.

ROGER SHERMAN.

BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 1st Septr, 1780. Honble Roger Sherman & Benja Huntington, Esqrs, *de* Genl Gates defeat — finances — expectations of provisions — Doct Howel & his protection, recd 9th inst p Brown.

TIMOTHY PICKERING TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Septr 1, 1780.

SIR, — Congress have been pleased to throw upon me an important, and at this time a most difficult and ungrateful, office, that of quarter master general, which I have reluctantly accepted; but having accepted it, I wish to do my duty to the extent of my ability, & to deserve, tho' (such will be the embarrassments of the department) I scarcely expect, the public approbation. One means however of securing it will be the appointment of good men to conduct the various branches of business in the department. Where I had it in my power personally to inquire after suitable characters I have done it. In the present instance I have consulted the honourable the delegates of your State, but they fix on no one. I am therefore obliged to trouble your Excellency on this occasion, which you will the more readily excuse, as by the new plan for conducting the quarter master general's department, a deputy quarter master of a State must

ultimately receive the approbation of its executive. The duties of that office, as delineated in the plan, will shew what talents & qualifications he ought to possess; but among them integrity, prudence and industry are essential: such a character, with the requisite abilities, I have to request that your Excellency will nominate to be deputy quarter master for the State of Connecticut. This appointment is the more important as the deputy quarter master is to chuse and superintend all the other officers of the department in the State. The system of commissions and some iniquities practised under it have raised a general clamour against the late officers of the department which is injurious to the service; it is therefore essentially necessary to appoint gentlemen of the most unexceptionable characters, in whom the people can perfectly confide, to retrieve its credit. A retrenchment of expences and reformation of abuses is generally expected; the deputy quarter master therefore should be an œconomist, and possessed of a good share of firmness.

I hope your Excellency will forgive me these remarks; they spring from my anxiety to get the most proper characters employed as servants to the public.

I do myself the honour to inclose a warrant for the deputy your Excellency shall appoint, and request you will insert his name, and deliver him the copies of the plan for conducting the department & the other papers herewith transmitted. You will do me the favour to inform me of the name of the person appointed, & what date you shall affix to his warrant.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect.

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

TIMOTHY PICKERING

His Excellency Governour TRUMBULL.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, September 1, 1780.

SIR, — I am honored with your Excellency's letter of the 21 ultimo, with the several despatches to which it refers, respecting George Howell; and am ordered to explain the circumstances of his application, and the pasport granted to him in consequence thereof.

Enclosed you have a copy of his Memorial to Congress, upon which he produced satisfactory evidence that he had never in any instance acted an inimical part against the United States; that he but lately came of age to act for himself, being not 22 years old, and had in confidence revealed to some of his friends, who had been *incog* on to the Island by permission, that he was determined to remove from thence, (now he was of age to act for himself) and risk his life & fortune with the independance of these United States.

By a fortunate ticket in a lottery in England he had drawn about three thousand pounds sterling, and as he could not obtain the money had determined to invest it in goods and leave the Island, if he could obtain permission.

This representation being made by persons of undoubted character who had personal knowledge of the facts, Congress were satisfied of the sincerity of his profession, and supposed his case to come within the rule which had been uniformly adopted, and ordered the President to grant him a pasport & protection which was accordingly given.

The form of the pasport is the same as had been uniformly adopted, and it did not occur to Congress that it would ever be construed as mandatory, *commanding* all governors, &c., but merely as a protection on the seas, pledging the faith of the United States against captures

at sea, and giving notice thereof to all proper officers, BE IT KNOWN, &c. The same form hath been repeatedly used in giving pasport to vessels & effects coming from the British dominions in Europe & the West Indies, and in those cases the same diction extended to all officers, governors, generals, admirals, &c., acting under the Crown of France or Spain, &c.

Wherever Mr Howell landed his effects he must obtain the approbation & protection of the State, and be subject to the laws of such State. If he be an enemy to his country, and has abused his pasport to cover effects which were not his own property, he ought to forfeit the whole; but if he hath been sincere in his representation, upright in his conduct, and means to riske his life & fortune with the independance of these United States, he will probably be approved & accepted in the State where he shall reside.

The propriety of a full examination into the circumstances of this case is obvious and will doubtless be made by the proper authority.

The practice of admitting proper characters to remove from under the British government with their effects, and unite with us was adopted upon mature deliberation, as founded, not only in principles of justic[e] & humanity, but policy. The instances have been frequent, tho' Congress are very jealous & cautious not to admit an enemy, or be deceived by an impostor, and if Howell on examination should be found such it will be the first instance I have known or heard of.

Your Excellency will recollect the resolution of Congress, in favor of persons with their effects coming from Ireland to settle in these United States, exempting them from capture, which hath ever been in force from the commencement of captures by sea; and the case of an inhabitant of these United States who hath the misfortune to fall under the power of the enemy within their lines

is a much stronger case in favor of the subject, if he be a friend to his country and hath opportunity to escape with his effects.

The case of Mr Howill will depend upon the character & conduct of the man, but the principles upon which Congress acted are the same by which they have been uniformly governed in repeated instances, ever since the Declaration of Independance.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant.
SAM. HUNTINGTON, *President.*

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed : 1st Septr, 1780. His Excellcy Prest Huntington, *de* Doct Howel, recd p Brown, 9th inst. Copies sent to Govr Green & Colo Ledyard 11th inst.

[*Enclosure.*]

(Copy)

To The Honorable the Continental Congress.

The Memorial of George Howell humbly sheweth :

That your Memorialist is a native of the Town of Southampton in Suffolk County upon Long Island where he has resided until about ten days ago. That being a young man but lately arrived to age & without any family, your Memorialist resolved upon withdrawing himself from within the British lines and coming to live with his countrymen, the free citizens of America. That he is willing & desirous of giving every test of his allegiance which the laws of this country may require.

That your Memorialist is possessed of very valuable effects, which he distributed amongst his friends & which are now secreted by them on Long Island until he can find the means of removing them. That your Memorialist believes he can easily effect their removal, if he can be protected by Congress from the danger of having them

seised & made prize of by the people of the State where he may land them. That in the mean time they are in hourly danger of being seised by the British, as there is no kind of doubt that this would be done by them in case of their discovering his intentions; for which reason he has lost no time in repairing to this city in order to make the earliest application to Congress.

Wherefore your Memorialist humbly prays that Congress will be most graciously pleased to take his case into their consideration & by their act grant to him leave & protection to remove & land his effects either in the State of Rhode Island or such other part of the United States, as upon trial may be found most practicable without molestation or danger of seisure.

And your Memorialist shall ever pray, &c.

(signed) GEORGE HOWELL.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, September 4, 1780.

SIR, — I have been honored with your Excellency's despatches of the 21 ulto. by Messenger Brown, one of them enclosing the proceedings of the late Convention at Boston, the other respecting the case of George Howell, both which have been laid before Congress. Enclosed you will receive several newspapers; that of the 29 ulto. contains an account of several advantages gained by our troops to the southward; since which the scene is tottally reversed.

In the morning of the 16 ulto. Gen[l] Gates with the army under his immediate command, consisting of about 3,000, part Continental, and part militia of Virginia & more Southern States, were totally defeated in an engagement with the enemy near Cambden, S. Carolina, under Lord Cornwallis. The number of the enemy sup-

posed about 3,000. We have no particulars of this action. It is said the militia fled at the beginning of the engagement. Gen[l] Gates in vain attempted to rally them, and finally escaped himself with his Aids by the fleetness of their horses. In his letter of the 20 ulto. he informs me he is totally defeated, and shall give more particular intelligence of the event of the action as soon as it can be obtained. I am yet in doubt what judgement to form as to the cause of this disaster, & how far it might have been prevented, but am fearful our troops were too much flushed with their various successes & the advantages they had lately gained, and were too rapid in advancing without sufficient strength & caution. It is said they had not magazines of provision & were obliged to move to get their daily subsistence. This unfortunate event at present engrosses the attention of Congress to adopt measures for the defence of the Southern States and prevent the farther ravages of the enemy in that quarter.

The situation of our finances yet remains distressing, and seems the true cause to which every other difficulty & embarrassment may be traced up. It is from this source Congress has been driven thro' dire necessity to adopt measures which they would have gladly avoided, and which, I presume, are disagreeable to all, & perhaps unaccountable to some of the States.

It may be justly asked, Why are not magazines laid up before hand in season? Why are not the creditors to the public paid without delay? and why are not many other things done which it is so obvious ought to be done? The answer is obvious. I need not give it.

A stable medium introduced, it appears to me, would go a great way towards relieving the difficulty. Were our finances on such a foundation that ways & means could be timely obtained to defray the necessary expence of the war, our affairs would wear a better aspect than the most sanguine could have expected.

The late declaration of the Empress of Russia respecting the rights of neutral powers, &c., seems to have very considerable influence, and we have daily more full & undoubted intelligence that the powers of Europe, especially the maritime, favour the cause of America, and Great Brittain seems left without a single ally or any assistance, except what she has obtained from the petty states in Germany.

I have lately received a letter from an officer, consul under the Emperor of Morrocco, in behalf of the Emperor, inviting these United States to trade in his ports, and giving assurance that they may & shall enjoy all priviledges of any maritime powers, and that he is disposed to enter into a treaty of commerce with us.

I have the honor to enclose herewith copy of a letter from a gentleman in London to his friend in America, but take the liberty to observe it ought not to be published, least the author should be thereby exposed.

The period that confines me to my present painful situation is almost expired, and as I have been long absent from my private affairs, & my health somewhat impaired with the burthen & fatigue of business, I hope to obtain leave of absence in about one month, and wish a gentleman from Connecticutt better qualified may come forward to relieve me.

I have the honor to be,

with every sentiment of esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 4th Septr, 1780. His Excellency Prest Huntington, *de* defeat of General Gates's army, 16th Augt ult. — Finances — Queries — Empress of Russia, neutrality — Emperor of Morocco — His year near expired — recd p Brown 9th inst — enclosed Letter from London.

[*Enclosure.*]

London, [April,] 1780.

Hoping, my worthy old friend, that the present year will bless you with more quiet, and less restrained intercourse, than the last, I give this letter its chance to convey you my best respects & same time my most sincere condolence.

Sensible have I been, my d^r^ Sir, to the very severe & tedious conflicts you must have had with outward distress, as well as inward disquietude. I judge from my own anxieties, which inflamed at times by anticipation, & some times by tedious weeks of suspense, proved often extremely pungent.

The state of public affairs here has greatly altered by the accession of Spain to the confederacy of France & America. In Aug^t^, 1779, I found Gen^l^ Robertson on his departure for N. York, w^th^ instructions founded on the information of the Commissioners, which indicated a hope of yet recovering the Colonies, which hope was on one hand damped by the loss of Granada, Jamaica in danger, our ports block'd up by the combined fleets, Sir Charles unable to relieve us & a French squadron on your coast. It was cherished on the other hand by the vast number of French prizes that had been made, D'Estaing's repulse at Savannah, & especially Rodney's success against the marine of Spain; these were all the pro & cons; yet after all it was confidently asserted the Minister entertained no idea of recovering the Colonies by any other means than what acts of Providence might effect, and that the operations in N. America are continued merely with the view of dividing the Bourbon force & lessening it in the West Indies which will be the seat of war this year. Mean while we are conflicting with internal discord, a jealousy of ill planned measures, fruitless camp^ns^, an increasing national debt, insupportable taxes, & a profusion of the public money has been breeding in the

minds of the people at large a discontent which now shews itself by a general murmur ag^{t} the American war as fruitless & ruinous.

Petitions are also come up to Parliament from the counties & cities, praying redress of national grievances & a reformation of the public expenditure; the counties have severally formed associations & committees to follow up the spirit of their petitions, & these committees have by delegates from their own bodies formed a grand committee or congress which sits in London to superintend & correspond generally.

The opposition in both Houses are same time indefatigably pushing the spirit of the day, 10th April. — 15th April, the national discontent grows daily more ominous, the county petitions are now under consideration of the lower House, & some strong resolves have been carried against the Minister, a detail of them would be tedious, judge from one in these words "That the influence of the Crown has increased, is increasing & ought to be diminished," carried 233 ag^{t} 215. Several of the Minister's friends in the House have deserted him in the business of the petitions, dreading the resentment of their constituents, whence some think he must *now* disolve the Parliaments & encounter a general election in order to rid these members of their fears. While others imagine a disolution would put the nation in a flame, as the country party seems gaining ground, whose voice is, Peace with America. 'T is not improbable some determination or other in regard to the country may take place ere long, tho' much will depend on the events in the West Indies. No maritime power in Europe seems disposed to meddle, but rather to complain of the insults offered to their commerce. Russia has sent a manifesto to the 3 belligerent powers, expressing her neutrality, & same time declaring that her naval equipments are intended to protect her own commerce, & that of other neutral states

from search & insult. We have been long remonstrating at the Hague for certain succours stipulated by treaty, but the States turn a deaf ear & are arming on the same principle with Russia. Some Danish & Swedish ships have been lately taken with naval stores, whence they also are growling. Amazing how the European sky thickens. No accounts yet from Gen[l] Clinton. — 19[th] April, in consequence of despatches from the Hague yesterday, we had a proclamation in last night's Gazette disolving our Commercial Treaty with Holland, & we are agog to day about fitting out privateers. May Heaven control the distractions of nations, asswage the passions of men and speedily accomplish its own wise purposes.

Indorsed: Letter from London, 1780, enclosed in President's Letter, 4[th] Sept[r], 1780.

JAMES WATSON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

HARTFORD, Sept[r] 4[th], 1780.

SIR, — I cannot certainly determine what quantity of flour I have in readiness, as part of it is at Middletown and part at Say Brook, suppose about twelve tons, would

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* At the session of the General Assembly of Connecticut in April, 1780, it was voted that "This Assembly do appoint Capt. James Watson to be Commissary, to purchase the rum and hay directed to be purchased by an act of this Assembly passed at the present session, for the use of the army of the United States, and in all respects to conform himself to the regulations in said act contained." (See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 531.) In the unsigned letter, dated Aug. 28, 1780, to Governor Trumbull, complaint is made that "My first attempts to purchase were embarrassed by your other purchasers giving twenty five p cent more in Continental money at the stated exchange for the same article than I could give in State's money, but the credit of the latter with some persons supported this superiority a few weeks over the former, and I did not fail to take all the advantage of so favorable circumstance that I was enabled to. . . . I have never departed from the spirit nor the letter of my instructions, but have laboured in vain, & at my own expense to do the business agreeable to them, and at a time when I suffered the mortification of lying under particular restrictions & seeing the business which the General Assembly appointed me to transact entered upon by persons appointed for other purposes (as is the case of M[r] Davenport of Stamford and others) and fifty p cent more given than I am allowed to give. . . . Would therefore pray that as I stand accountable for my conduct I may be permitted to act discretionarily in my office as your other servants do in theirs, or that some other person may be appointed to act in my place." — EDS.

therefore pray for a permitt to transport to that amount in the sloop Friendship, Cap^{t} Benjamin Bigelow, master, and to be informed wether I am to apply to your Excellency for a seperate permit every time we have occasion to send any forward.

My letter of the 28th was forwarded unsigned by mistake, I would hereby acknowledge it and assure your Excellency that my circumstances respecting the matters therein referred to are extreamly disagreable, and such as I most earnestly wish to be freed from.

I am, with the greatest esteem,

Your Excellency's most ob^{t}, humb. serv^{t}.

JAMES WATSON.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Sept^{r} 4th, 1780. Cap^{t} James Watson, *de* Permit, with my answer to the same & a letter to Col^{o} Jab. Hamlin.

PERMIT TO JAMES WATSON.*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

By the Governor.

To all whom it may concern.

Permission is granted to Capt. James Watson of Hartford, to ship on board the sloop Friendship, Benjamin Bigelow, master, and transport from Connecticut River to Newport, in the State of Rhode-Island, for the use of the French armament there, twelve tons of flower; bonds being given to the Naval Officer at Middletown according to law. This permit to be lodged with the Naval Officer at the port of delivery, who is to give certificate that the condition of the bond is faithfully fulfilled, and that this permit is lodged in his office. Any embargo to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Lebanon, 4th Sept^{r}, 1780.

J: T——LL.

* This permit and the letters to Captain Watson and Mr. Hamlin, which immediately follow, were copied by Governor Trumbull on the blank pages of Captain Watson's letter. — EDS.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JAMES WATSON.

LEBANON, 4th Septr, 1780.

SIR, — Enclosed is permit as requested in yours of this day. It will appear from the tenor thereof it will be necessary to apply every time you have occasion to send any thing forward. We mean if possible to break up all illicit trade; for that end to prevent any embargoed articles being carried out of this State by water, without permit. And the vessel examined to see that no such articles are on board, but what is permitted and bonded, and certificates returned, that the same is faithfully delivered, and the permit lodged in office.

As for the other matter I am unable to give any answer at present for yr relief. Mr Elijah Hubbard hath been inquired off concerning his purchase, as it was disapproved. His answer is that the rum he purchased was Jamaica old spirits, and not purchased for the State. As for Mr Davenport, have hitherto been unable to enquire of his conduct.

I am, with esteem & regard,
Sir, your obedt, hble. servant.
J. T——LL.

Capt JAMES WATSON.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JABEZ HAMLIN.

LEBANON, 4th Septr, 1780.

SIR, — You have undoubtedly seen the proclamation taking off the inland embargo. That by water is intended to be observed very strictly. To that end, that bonds be given for all embargoed articles, and the permit lodged, & duly certified, and that each vessel be searched and examined to see that there is no such article on board that is not expressed in the permitt; to pre-

vent as far as possible the illicit trade, so pernicious, and tending to our ruin.

I am, with great esteem & regard,
Sir, most obed^{t}, hble. servant.

J: T——LL.

JABEZ HAMLIN, Esq^{r}, Naval Officer.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, September 12, 1780.

SIR, — I do myself the honour to transmit your Excellency Dunlap's paper of this day, which contains a more particular & less disagreeable representation than we had before received of the battle near Cambden, the 16 ulto.

The Governor of Virginia writes that they had again collected an army of between four & five thousand men.

By our last intelligence from the West Indies the French & Spanish fleets were separated & gone into port at S^{t} Domingo & the Cape, and there seemed no probability of an attack on Jamaica, at least until after the hurricane season. The cause of this delay seems at present unaccountable & wants explanation.

We have just received a report from the captain of a vessel arrived at Wilmington, Delaware, from Cape Nichola Mole, that he sailed in company with a French fleet, about twenty sail of the line, with upwards of one hundred sail of merchantmen under their convoy, and parted with them about the latitude of Bermuda; that it was reported four ships of the line were to convoy the merchant ships to Europe, and the remainder were bound to Newport, but this I give as a report that wants confirmation. Should it prove true, your Excellency may probably hear of them on the coast before this comes to hand.

The season is so far advanced that I begin to fear nothing capital can be attempted against New York this campaign, unless we should soon obtain the dominion of the seas by a superior naval force on this coast.

Congress are now engaged to devise ways & means if possible to have an army of twenty five thousand men at least, engaged during the war, with magazines of provision for six months before hand; could this be accomplished there is the greatest reason to believe a negotiation in earnest for peace would soon take place.

From the best intelligence it appears beyond a doubt that the British administration flatter themselves that such is the state of our finnances, & the circumstances of this country, we cannot any longer keep up an army; upon this they buoy up their hope & encourage their people that we shall soon submit to their terms.

They have every appearance in Europe against them. The late declaration of Russia to support the rights of neutrality operates powerfully against them, and is acceded to by most of the maritime neutral powers of Europe already, and will be, most likely, by all.

I hope no exertion will be wanting on the part of Congress, or any of the States, to establish an army without delay. It seems highly probable we cannot want them long in service, unless the British should obtain some very capital advantage by sea.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of respect & consideration,

Your Excellency's humble servt.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

Govr TRUMBULL.

JOHN TRUMBULL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

For His Excellency Governor Trumbull, State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

LONDON, 12th September, 1780.

HONᴰ SIR, — I have written you twice since my arrival at this place, in each of which letters I have said as much of politics as was proper; with them I hope you will likewise receive a bundle of pamphlets & news papers, which I believe were forwarded by the same conveyance.

Since my last the principal event which has hapned, is the dissolution of Parliament, which took place a few days ago. The confusion of elections in consequence of this is, to an American, outrageously ridiculous; the cabals, the palpable corruption, the meanness of intrigue exceeds all my ideas, & gives me a much more contemptible opinion than I ever before entertained of the celebrated fabric of British liberty. The mode of election & the inequality of representation are affrontive to the very shadow of freedom.

I have been told this day, & from such authority as gives some credit to the report, that the new Parliament is call'd to undo what the old one has been doing during its whole existance. That American independance is to be acknowledged, & no measure left untried to effect an alliance of friendship & commerce, as this will come with better grace from a new body than from one whose preceeding conduct has been so very opposite. But tho' this information must give peculiar pleasure to every true American, yet I would by no means have it so far credited as to throw the least damp on the exertions even of an individual, since if true it has only originated from that spirit of determin'd resistance which it is seen cannot be conquer'd, & we may be assur'd that relaxation on

* For notice of John Trumbull, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 261 *n.* — EDS.

our part will ever be follow'd by new efforts of oppression. 'T is the sword only that can give us such a peace as our past glorious struggles have merited. The sword must finish what it has so well begun.

I hope soon to have an opportunity of writing by M^r^ J. Temple, who is looking out for a good passage by way of Holland, unless he should there meet some appointment of a public nature from his country to detain him in Europe. His residence here since he last left Boston has been essentially of service to America. He has been indefatigable in his endeavours to defeat the misrepresentations of Gen^l^ Robertson & M^r^ Galloway at the bar of the House of Commons, & to convince both the majority & minority of the impracticability of coercing America, and of the wisdom of putting an end to the war & making peace on our own terms as soon as possible. His acquaintance is among the friends of his country, such as the Dukes of Richmond & Rutland, M^r^ D. Hartley, D^r^ Price, M^r^ E. Burke, &c., who have paid great attention to his informations, if we may judge from their language.

I wish ingratitude may not be a characteristic vice of our country; if it be not, M^r^ T——, who has lost an elegant living from his attachment to her cause, & been persecuted for her sake, may reasonably hope to be remember'd. I heartily wish him success, & if there should be any occasion in which you can serve him, I beg you will do it, from a conviction that no man will serve his country with more fidelity than he will. His assiduity in counteracting the base acts of the refugees has gain'd him their perpetual, implacable hatred, & there is no villainy to which they would not stoop for revenge. You have seen one of their attacks which is eno' to convince you that his blood as well as mine would be exquisitely relish'd by them; but we are in no danger from such *little* enemies.

I am, Hon^{d} Sir, with affectionate remembrance of all my friends & profound duty to you,

Your grateful Son,

JOHN TRUMBULL.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

JABEZ BOWEN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. p Cap^{t} Whittelsey.

PROVIDENCE, Sep^{r} 13, 1780.

SIR, — The barer, Cap^{t} Whitelsey, is sent on by the D. Q. M. Gen^{l} to procure a quantity of grain for the French army. I have put on board a few bushells of salt and request your Excellency's permission for a few barrils of flour and a little wheat for my family's use. Our good friends the French seem to be in want of every kind of necessary for supporting an army, and among others have bo't up all the Indian corn they can, and our crops are like to be verry short so that their is great danger of the people in the sea ports suffring for want of bread. I doubt not of your obliging me if consistent with your laws. We have just received the most disagreable account of the defeat of General Gates's army in North Carolina; this seems to be an event of the greatest moment that has taken place during the war in its consequences. I take it for granted N^{o} Carolina is gone, that the Continental forces of Georgia, S^{o} Carolina, N^{o} Carolina, Virginia & Maryland are all killed or prisoners, and that we shall reap no advantages from any State south of Virginia in forming a new army, to which may be added the large body of men that the British may recruit from the Carolinas, & our affairs look verry dark to me. I am afraid Congress have no consistent plan laid, are without money, credit, or magazines, and will soon be without an army. What must every considerate

* For notice of Jabez Bowen, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 259 *n.* — EDS.

man say when the great affairs of this continent weir such an aspect? We may save our country yet, if we put by private intrest, party matters in Congress, and arise as one man; if not Brittain will yet be our masters, and hard ones they will be.

We have had a short visit from Gen^{l} Rochambau; he appears to be a sensible, spirited and good man.

Reports from Newport say that the French fleet from the Cape was spoke with three days ago. If they arive I hope we may rise as one man and strike a stroke that shall terrify our enemies, and tend to reestablish peace in our distressed land.

With sentiments of the greatest esteem, I am your Excellency's most obedient and most humb. servant.

JABEZ BOWEN.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Sept^{r} 13th, 1780. Gov^{r} Bowen's letter *de* permission to purchase & transport provisions for family's use, rec^{d} 14th.

NEHEMIAH HUBBARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HARTFORD, Sept^{r} 16th, 1780.

SIR, — I take the liberty to enclose to your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Commander in Chief, directing me to make preparation for himself, family & attendance, and for the Count de Rochambeau, the Chevalier de Ternay & attendance, who he expects to meet at this place the 20th ins^{t}. We compute the whole number attending the Commanders of the two armies at about one hundred; quarters, wine, forrage, &c., &c., will be wanting, nothing is yet provided, nor no money to make the

* Nehemiah Hubbard was born in Middletown, Conn., April 10, 1752, O. S., and was brought up for a mercantile life. Early in 1776 he entered the army, and was appointed paymaster for one of the Connecticut regiments. In May of the following year he was appointed a deputy quartermaster in the Continental service for Connecticut, and served nearly to the end of the war. He died Feb. 6, 1837. See Field's Centennial Address at Middletown, pp. 86–88; Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, p. 375. — EDS.

necessary preparations with. I shall do every thing in my power to provide quarters & other necessaries agreeable to his Excellency's directions, and shall borrow money to enable me to do the business, & must beg your Excellency to grant an order for a sufficient sum of money to answer the present emergency; enclosed is an estimate of the sum necessary. I have the honour to be your Excellency's obed^{t} & very hum. servant.

N. HUBBARD.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 16th Sept^{r}, 1780. Nehe. Hubbard, D. Q. M. G., *de* Gen^{l} Washington's coming.

MESHECH WEARE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HAMPTON FALLS, Sep^{r} 20th, 1780.

S^{R}, — I am honord with the receipt of your favor of the 11th instant, with the inclosed Proclamation for takeing off the land embargo in your State. I agree with your Excellency in sentiment, that all restraints on trade are grievous, and that free intercourse and trade tends to promote harmony and the mutual advantage of each other. The General Assembly of this State has been under a pritty long adjournment, otherwise I believe the act of this State, laying an embargo on the exportation of provisions, &c., by land would have been repealed before now. The Assembly is to meet on the second Wednesday in Oct^{r} next, when I shall lay your Excellency's letter before them, and doubt not but they will adopt simular measures.

I have the honor to be, with great esteem and respect,

Y^{r} ob^{t}, hum^{ble} ser^{t}.

MESHECH WEARE.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Pres^{t} Wear, N. Hamshire, *de* Embargo, rec^{d} 28th ins^{t} p M^{r} Robinson.

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* For notice of Meshech Weare, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 324 *n*. — EDS.

ELBRIDGE GERRY* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Boston, 20th September, 1780.

Sir, — This will be delivered to your Excellency by ye honorable Mr Lee, who has lately arrived from France in the Alliance; during his short continuance in this State, he has confirmed such of the inhabitants as have had ye pleasure of his acquaintance in the opinion which they have ever been used to entertain of his honor, integrity, & abilities, as well of his zeal in the cause of his country; & in consequence thereof he has been treated with every mark of respect by the principal inhabitants of this State, but as it is needless to suggest to your Excellency the merit of this gentleman, I shall only add, that he will be able to give you the best information respecting our foreign affairs, & to suggest many measures which the interest of ye States renders it necessary for them to adopt.

I have ye honor to be, Sir, with every sentiment
of respect, your most obed. & very hum. ser.
E. Gerry.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq.

Indorsed: 20th Septr, 1780. Elbridge Gerry, *de* Mr Arthur Lee, recd 29th instt.

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* Elbridge Gerry was born in Marblehead, Mass., July 17, 1744, graduated at Harvard College in 1765, and immediately afterward entered on a commercial life, in which he acquired a considerable fortune. From 1776 to 1780 and from 1783 to 1785 he was a member of the Continental Congress. From 1789 to 1793 he was a member of the House of Representatives under the Constitution. In 1797 he was one of the commissioners sent to France by President Adams. In 1810 and 1811 he was Governor of Massachusetts, and in 1812 he was elected Vice-President under Madison, but died while holding that office, Nov. 23, 1814. See Lanman's Biographical Annals, p. 162; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. pp. 630-632. — Eds.

MEMORIAL FROM THE TOWN OF NORWALK.

To his Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r^, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Connecticut.

The Memorial of us the subscribers, the Civil Authority and Selectmen of the Town of Norwalk, in the County of Fairfield in said State, humbly sheweth: —

That great numbers of the inhabitants of this Town that had their dwelling houses & barns consumed with fire by the enemy last year have the summer past got up frames for houses and barns, with a view to get into the same before the approaching winter, and that by reason of the great drought and the great call for materials to finish their buildings, such as boards and glass, they must inevitably fail of returning to their former settlements unless they can obtain the same from the eastward;

That to be hindred from returning to their former settlements for want of boards and glass will put them to extream hardships and difficulties the next winter, as they must keep their stock upon their lands and be at a considerable distance from the place where their stock must be kept, and as many of the people have already got up houses and got them covered and closed so as they could live in them in the summer, yet they cannot by any means subsist in them through the next winter, unless they can obtain boards and glass so as to compleat their floors and partitions and glaze their houses, and as Peter Betts of this place hath a vessel of about sixty tons and is willing to go to the eastward for boards, &c., where they may be had for provisions, and the same are to be spared here and the sufferers are very desirous to spare the same for that purpose such quantity as your Excellency shall judge proper for s^d^ cargo, we would therefore in behalf of the sufferes humbly beseech your Excellency to take into your wise consideration the unhappy and

distressed situation of the unhappy sufferers, and grant liberty to the said Peter Betts to transport provisions in s[d] sloop to the eastward, to purchase boards, &c., for the purpose afores[d], and also for the necessary article of salt, as it is much wanted and can be purchased their much cheaper, and your Excellency's Memoralists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. Dated at Norwalk, the 11[th] day of September, A. D. 1780.

STEPHEN S[T] JOHN, } *Justies of*
ELIPHALET LOCKWOOD. } *y[e] peace.*

HOOKER S[T] JOHN, } *Select*
MATHEW MARVIN, } *Men.*
JAMES RICHARDS. }

ROBERT STANTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excell[y] Jona : Trumbull, Esq[r], Lebanon.

STONINGTON, Sept[r] 26[th], 1780.

GOV[R] TRUMBULL,

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELL[Y], — In consequence of letter rec[d] from Colo[l] William Ledyard, in which were inclos'd the doings of Congress relative to the conduct of Doct[r] G. Howel, in which letter, directions were given, by your Excell[y] to obtain such evidences as related to the subject; Have therefore proceeded to take a number of depositions before proper authority, copies of which are forwarded, and beg your Excell[ys] observation & direction in what may be judg[d] expedient in further prosecution of said matter and, if not troublesome, should esteem it a great honour of being advis'd by letter as soon as convenient. Nothing on my part shall be wanting to obtain a full discovery of s[d] affair, &c.

Am, with the utmost respect & esteem,

Your Excell[ys] obedient, devoted, hum[l] servant.

ROBERT STANTON.

Indorsed: 26 Sept[r], 1780. The complainant's letter & evidences, rec[d] p M[r] States, 27[th] inst.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO EZRA STILES.*

Lebanon, 26th Septr, 1780.

Sir, — My grandson, Jabez Huntington, son of Brig. General Huntington, is designed to enter Yale College this autumn.† He hath lived with me from four years old, hath been under the constant instruction of our good schoolmaster Mr Tisdale, was examined two years ago by Mr Robinson, then Tutor, and accepted; by reason, at that time he was only eleven years of age, thought it not best to send him, — indeed, I think him too young at this time. He will stand in need of your paternal guidance, which I specially ask on account of his youth. I was of the same age when I entered College. The tenderness, care, and inspection of the Revd President Leveret, and my Tutor Mr Welsteed, proved very beneficial to me. I doubt not your readiness, & that of his Tutor, to whom I ask your recommendation to have a watchful eye on him. Must submit to your care the assignment of a chamber in College with some prudent, serious person; if it might be with a Tutor, it would be very pleasing. Shall send him the 24th or 25th of next month.

I am, with every sentiment of esteem and consideration, Revd Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

J. T——ll.

Revd President Stiles.

Indorsed: 26 Sepr, 1780. To Revd Prest Stiles. *De* Master Huntington. Sent p Mr Saml Bellamy.

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* For notice of President Stiles, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 345 *n.* — Eds.

† For notice of Jabez Huntington, only child of Gen. Jedidiah Huntington by his first wife, Faith Trumbull, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 206 *n.* — Eds.

JESSE ROOT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, at Lebanon. Sep^r 30^th To be left at M^r Jn^th Deming's, Colchester, who is desired to forward the same to his Excellency to-morrow evening by request of Major Hart.

NEW LONDON, Sept^r 30^th, 1780.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The inclosed is the report of Cap^t Elisha Hart of a gallant action performed by him, in the privateer Retaliation, which at his request & his friends I enclose to your Excellency, & beg leave to submit it to your Excellency whether it does not merit the notice of the public & even to be communicated to Congress. We were alarmed this morning with the surprising conduct of Gen^l Arnold; a young gentleman whom I se, that left Peekskill last Tuesday, who says he saw the spy that was taken up with the plan of the fort at West Point. Gen^l Arnold was to have £30,000 for delivering up the fort, that immedeatly upon the spy's being taken Arnold left the fort, passed the guards down the river with a flag, & had been gone but about one hour before Gen^l Washington arrived there.

From your Excellency's most obed^t
& most humble serv^t.
JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 30^th Sept^r, 1780. Col^o Jesse Root, enclosing Capt Elisha Hart's Report of his Enterprise near N. York. 1 Cap^t, 1 L^t, 2 Serg^ts, 43 rank & file. Gen^l Arnold's Treachery. £30,000 for delivering up West Point, rec^d 4^th Oct^o seq.

JEREMIAH WADSWORTH† TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW PORT, Oct^r 7^th, 1780.

SIR, — Your Excellency's favour came to hand by M^r Hillhouse yesterday morning. I was not able to deliver

* For notice of Jesse Root, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 186 *n.* — EDS.

† For notice of Jeremiah Wadsworth, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 384 *n.* — EDS.

the Minister of France his letter before evening, when I met with him too late to converse much on the subjects of my business or the future supplies of this army. I have read a letter of the 25th September from the President of the Council of the State of Massachusetts to the Intendant of the army of France, informing him that the Assembly decline contracting and are willing to have the contractors go on. I am in hopes to settle my affairs with Monsr De Corney with less difficulty than I feard. The Intendant is very complaisant, and I believe the whole army are sensible that the contracts with Delanos, Blakely, and all but their forage contract and some small flour contracts, are very precarious. I was last night invited by the Intendant to take on me the direction of all their supplies. I shall deliberate on this matter. General Rochambeau expresses much friendship and regard and if I was to undertake and succeed, I should have much praise from the whole army; but there are so many difficulties in the way that I am more than half resolved to have nothing to do with it; yet my feelings are much flattered by the application above mentioned. I shall learn of the Minister as soon as possible when an opportunity can be had to France and inform your Excellency. In the mean time I am, with the most perfect respect, esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's very humb. serv.

JERE. WADSWORTH.

His Excy Governor TRUMBULL.

October 8th.

Within is a duplicate of my letter of yesterday, which being sent by Providence may not arrive in season. Last evening I had a long conversation with Mr Ellery and Mr Chaning, State Attorney, on the subject of Howel. The latter has been his advocate, but is now convinced he was wrong. I have a letter of the 27th from Major Talmadge in which he confirms his first account. I write

him by this opportunity and press him to procure positive proof. I wish the letter may go on soon, as I am convinced Howel & several others are employed in this State. Jesse Livingsworth was at Providence last week. I am,

Your Excy, most obt, hum. servant.

JERE. WADSWORTH.

His Ex. Govr TRUMBULL.

INVENTORY OF JESSE RAYMOND'S LOSSES.

Memorandum of articles plundered and taken from Jesse Raymond of Norwalk, in Fairfield County, by a party of the enemy from Long Island, on the night before the 29th of Augst, A. D. 1780, accounted in silver money, —

	£	s.	d.
Vizt 1 hat 8/, 1 blue superfine broad cloth coat 160/ . .		8.	8.
1 dark duroy do 110/, 1 nankeen do 45/, 1 scarlet great do 110		13.	5.
1 homspun new do 80/, 1 pair new buck skin breeches 85/		8.	5.
1 pair do old 25/, 2 holland shirts 50/, 2 new check't do 40/		5.	15.
10 yds new diaper 90/, one pair new duroy breeches 25/ .		5.	15.
1 pair do toe cloth dimity 12/, 2 stocks cambrick & linen 10/		1.	2.
2 pair worsted stokins 30/, 1 pair cotton do 15/, 6 pr yarn do @ 7/		4.	7.
2 pair lin do 12/, 1 old check't shirt 3/, 1 pair garters . .			15.
1 long camblet cloak 55/, scarlet broad cloth short do . .		2.	5.
1 calico do 12/, 1 satten visitor with lace 70/		4.	2.
1 black silk padusuoy gown 70/, 1 new duroy do 70/ . .		7.	
1 single worsted do 30/, 2 pair womens yarn stokins 14/ .		2.	4.
2 pair do lin. 10/, 1 pair cotton do 9/, 1 check't apron 9/ .		1.	8.
1 cotton apron 12/, flowerd lawn do 15/, 1 cambrick do 15/		1.	10.
1 double lawn hankerchief 25/, 1 single lawn do with lace 15/ p yd 99/		5.	4.
1 do with stripes rouud the edge 5/, 1 new check't silk do 10/			15.
1 white gauze apron & 1 fan 5/, 1 work't cap & 5 yds ribbon 30/		1.	15.

1 calico short gown, 6/, 1 lin. handkerchief 2/, 5 pil° biers 20/	1.	8.
½ y^d calico 12/, about ¾^lb fine sewing thread 5 run to y^e pound 10/	1.	2.
1 best feather bed, bolster and pillows 200/, 2 pair sheets 85/	14.	5.
2 y^ds new flanel cloth 16/, 1 pewter tankard 12/	1.	8.
22 pewter large plates 'most new 110/	5.	10.
4 diaper table cloth, 1 very large 153/, 1 plain towel 3/	7.	16.
Dyche's English Dictionary 25/, 1 Psalm book Watts 4/	1.	9.
Flavel's husbandry spiritualizd 10/, & a number of other books & pamphets		10.
A number of valuable papers, as deeds, notes & other acc^ts, &c.		
1 blue cut velvet jacket 70/, 6 silver tea spoons 30/	5.	
1 saddle & bridle & bridle most new 120/	6.	
An excellent gun with bayonet, cartridge box with cartriges	5.	
1 new fashion'd ink case with pen knife, &c.		5.
1 sett of fleams and knife 8/, 1 sett of hawks bills pullakins 9/	0.	17.
1 superfine large chints blanket for a child lin'd with cotton	1.	1.
1 white frock 8/, 1 calico d° 8/, 1 check't d° 6/, 1 white peticoat 4/	1.	6.
2 white shifts 4/, 1 pair mitts 1/, 1 large foot glass with cover 6/		11.
1 pair of women's cotton gloves 2/, 1 steel pencil 3/		5.
2 silver vest buttons 3/, 4 rasors, a hone strap & case 36/	1.	19.
10 cakes chocolate 35/, 1 buckle brush 2/	1.	17.
1 dozen clouts 30/, 1 paper ink powder 3/	1.	13.
1 pair women's yarn gloves 6/, sundry bundles of liñ & woollen rem^ts 30/	1.	16.
2 vests homspun full'd cloth, some worn 30/	1.	10.
1 copper coffee pott 25/, 1 pair new boots 40/, 1 p^r d°		16.
old 10/	3.	15.
1 pair nail cutters 3/, 1 candlestick 2/		5.
1 pair cotton homade breeches 12/, 1 box joynted y^d measure 9/	1.	1.
1 watch seal 5/, 1 magnet & box 6/, one sector made of box 12/	1.	3.
1 case of drawers mahogany front, broke all to shivers, £10	10.	

1 case of drawers, the locks rent of & some broke, 10/ .	10.
1 desk broke & locks rent off 14/, one other desk some broke 2/	16.
one glass window broke in 30/, & table broke 5/. . . .	1. 15.
	£155. 8.
also many valuable papers, &c., rent and torn in pieces	

The above acc^{t} is certify'd by Jesse Raymond to be the particulars plundered and taken from him by the enemy as afores^{d}.

JESSE RAYMOND.

Dated HARTFORD, 18th October, 1780.

Errors excepted.

MEMORIAL OF JESSE RAYMOND.

To the Hon^{bl} General Assembly of the State of Connecticut at their present sessions in Hartford, October, A. D. 1780.

The Memorial of Jesse Raymond, of Norwalk, in the County of Fairfield, in s^{d} State, humbly sheweth: —

That the s^{d} Jesse Raymond on the night before the 29th day of August, A. D. 1780, being in his own dwelling house in s^{d} Norwalk in the peace of God and the country, in the dead of the night his s^{d} dwelling house was surrounded, beset, and broke open and entred by a number of the enemy from Long Island, and then and there took from your Memorialist the several articles mentioned in a certain memorandum to which this memorial is annexed, amounting to the sum of £155. 8 money, as therein mentioned, and the same was by s^{d} enemy carry'd off, and your Memorialist very nearly escaping them, who had threatned to burn s^{d} house, if they could not find your Memorialist, who providentially escaped the misfortune of falling into their hands, and prays that the State and other rates and taxes due or

that shall or may hereafter become due from your Memorialist, to the amount of s^{d} £155. 8 money as afores^{d}, may be abated or in some way grant relief to your Memorialist, as in wisdom your Hon^{rs} shall find just and right, and your Memorialist as in duty bound shall ever pray.

JESSE RAYMOND.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO EZRA STILES.

HARTFORD, 25th Oct, 1780.

SIR, — I send on my little grandson to enter his studies under your direction; shall I entreat your particular care of & inspection over him? He is very young & something inclined to the volatile, yet of a tender mind & I believe will prove easily manageable. Your parental care will be very obliging. Mr Porter * who accompanies him will see him settled & project some mode respect^{g} the bonds to be given the Steward.

Be so good, Sir, as to furnish me p M^{r} Porter with your list of candidates for the ministry, with your advice who will be most proper for our Society in Lebanon to apply to for the purposes of settlement. We have had much difficulty & still remain vaccant; some sensible, judicious, prudent person, of good learning & abilities joined to easey manners may possibly unite us. I wish for your advice & assistance. You know the principles as to the great doctrinal parts of religion in which our good Doctor W^{ms} lived & died; a man of consonant principles with his will probably suit the people best.

I am, &c.

J. T——L.

Rev^{d} D^{r} STILES.

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* John Porter, who was at one time secretary to Governor Trumbull. See 2 Proceedings, vol. viii. pp. 140, 141. — EDS.

EZRA STILES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. Mr Porter.

YALE COLLEGE, Oct^r 26, 1780.

SIR, — Mr Porter will inform you how we have settled your grandson; and I hope it will be to your satisfaction. I will pay a very particular attention to his education, & I pray God his morals may be protected & that he may happily lay a foundation of usefulness & honor. We have admitted 54 Freshmen, & the College consists of 150 undergraduates, "and behold now the place where we dwell is too strait for us," 2 Kings, vi. 1. But when shall we be so happy as to have another College edifice נית מזרש for the sons of the prophets?

My list of candidates for the ministry is among some papers which I sent out of town just before I went my late journey. As soon as I receive them I will forward it. But really, Sir, I am unable to point out in it a gentleman of your description unemployed. I sincerely wish your congregation happy in another pastor of the same Puritan & evangelical principles with the late venerable D^r Williams. With the highest esteem & the most profound respect, I am,

Your Excellency's most obed^t serv^t.

EZRA STILES.

GOV. TRUMBULL.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, October 26, 1780.

SIR, — This will accompany my official letter of the same date addressed to your Excellency, and enclosing the copy of an Act of Congress allowing half pay for life to the officers, *as well those who shall be reduced by the*

new arrangement of the army as those who shall continue in service.

I was not a little surprized at the passing of the paragraph allowing half-pay for life, as the question had been so often discussed before and as often negatived.

I have enclosed a copy of the votes with the ays & nos on the questions, with an extract of General Washington's letter on the subject.

The delegates of Connecticutt looked upon themselves bound by their former instructions to oppose the measure, with which I presume their own sentiments also coincided fully. I confess for myself ever to have opposed the measure, and take that to have been the sentiments of all the delegates from Connecticutt who have been present when the question has been debated.

'Though I am as willing as others generously to reward the officers of the army, and think they merit much from their country, yet I have ever been opposed to pensions for life as a reward for their services, as inconsistent with the genious & spirit of our constitution.

I presume this resolution will give general satisfaction to the officers, and those who opposed it will incur their disesteem, and perhaps censure; but I am much more concerned on account of its consequences among the people. What effects it will have with them time will best discover; hope it may be better than my fears.

I have thought it my duty to say thus much upon a subject so important & interesting,

And am, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esquire.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

PROVIDENCE, October 28th, 1780.

SIR, — In consequence of your letter to me of the 5th instant, the General Assembly have this day apprehended George Howell and directed him to be closely confined until further orders. As we have no other proof against him than you have afforded us, I must request you to give me as early as possible all such further information and proofs respecting him as you shall be possess'd of.

If Howell be an innocent man, justice requires that he should be released from a disagreeable and ignominious confinement, and if guilty, that he should suffer the punishment due to his demerits.

I am, with great esteem,
Sir, your most obed^t, hble serv^t.
W. GREENE.

His Excellency Govr. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Oct^o 28, 1780. Gov^r Greene, *de* confinement of George Howell.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(*Publick Service.*) *His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Governour, &c, of the State of Conecticut, Lebanon. W. Greene.*

WARWICK, 1st Nov^r, 1780.

SIR, — Notwithstanding my letter to your Excellency of the 28th ult^o, as there is a probibility of its not having come to hand, I imbrace this oppertunity by the post, to inform you that after forwarding the above as the Assembly were then seting they gave me in charge, by a verble request, not to omit taking every prudent measure in my power to urge to you the necessity of making use

of every exertion that may tend to procure all the evidence that may be likely to be had to make it appear that George Howel is very probably guilty of what he is suspected of, and for which in consequence of your last letter, enclosing the intilligence from Long Island he was, the day I wrote the above, ordered by the Assembly to be put under close confinement, where he now remains. And as the Assembly also requested me, notwithstanding he is to remain under confinement until further orders from them, that should the proofs to be procur'd appear more favourable then what may at present be expected, considering what hath already appeared, or rather that there is the greatest probibility of his being clear of the charge, that I then advise with several of the members of the Upper House of Assembly whether it may not be prudent to admit him to bail, shall therefore expect an answer respecting the proofs, and shall be glad of your sentiments respecting them, whether it may not be prudent should they appear favourable on his part to admit him to bail or not.

I am, with respect & esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient
and most humble servt.
W. GREENE.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Nov. 1, 1780. Govr Greene *de* George Howell.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(*Pablick Service*) *His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr, Governor, &c, of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. W. Greene.*

WARWICK, 10th November, 1730.

SIR, — Notwithstanding the two letters I have wrote to your Excellency, of the 28th of last month and of the 3rd instant, respecting Docter George Howel's situation,

who still remains under close confinement, as there is a probability of your not having received either of the above letters, I imbrace this oppertunity by the bearer, M^r^ Joseph Rogers, to inform you that the Assembly, who were seting the day I wrote you the first of those letters, requested me in the most pressing manner to inform you, that as his confinement is in consequence of your letter to me of the 5^th^ of October, enclosing an extract of a letter dated September 16^th^, 1780, they wish you to make use of every prudent method in your power to procure all the proofs possable respecting him as soon as it can be done with propriety and forward the same to me.

And as the Assembly are to meet on the last Monday in this instant, doubt not you will give me the earliest information in your power respecting this matter, as they have directed me in their recess, with the advice of two of the members of the Council, to give such further orders with respect to his being continued under confinement as may appear by the proofs when obtained necessary.

I am, with every sentiment of respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient
and very humble serv^t^.

W. Greene.

His Excellency Gov^r^ Trumbull.

Indorsed: 10^th^ Nov^r^, 1780. His Excell^cy^ Gov^r^ Green, *de* D^r^ Howel, rec^d^ p M^r^ Rogers, 13^th^ inst, ves.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(On Publick Service) His Excellency Jonathan, Esq^r^, Governor, &c., of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. W. Greene.

Warwick, 20^th^ Nov^r^, 1780.

Sir, — I am under the disagreable necessity of informing your Excellency, that after all the pains which has been taken respecting Docter George Howel, he last evening, about seven o'clock, made his escape from the

goal in Providence. There are several persons suspected of having assisted him who are confin'd there. I enclose you some advertisements which I wish you to dispose of as you may think proper, every precausion possable is taken here for the reapprehending of him.

I have apprehended a stranger who says he is of the State of New Yorke from Soldiers fortin, and that his name is Nathaniel Gardner, who, as he says, had a permit from you last March to go over to Long Island. I am very suspicious he is concerned with Howel.

It is to be doubted whether the person who has the care of the boats which passes from Seabrook to Long Island will not assist Howel in going there, by intilligence I have had from that quarter. His name to me is unknown.

I have not had a line from your Excellency in answer to the three letters I have wrote you respecting Howel.

I am, with respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient,
and most humble servt.
W. Greene.

N. B. This will be handed you by my son. W. G.

Indorsed: Novr 20th, 1780. His Excellency Govr Greene *de* escape of George Howell.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM GREENE.*

Lebanon, 20th Novr, 1780.

Sir, — Your letter of this day is delivered me by your son at 6 o'clo. in the evening. Yours of the 28th ult & 1st inst were delivered me this day; the other was delivered me at Hartford latter end of last week, to which I intended to answer imediately. Dr Geo. Howel hath

* Governor Trumbull's letter was draughted on the blank leaf of Governor Greene's letter to which it was an answer, and has numerous interlineations and erasures. Governor Greene's letter, both in the body and in the incomplete address, bears marks of having been written in great haste. — Eds.

given us much trouble to detect his inimical designs against these States. The evidence being within the enemies lines were not easily to be obtained, altho' we have full accounts from thence of the designs D^r^ Howell was pursuing.

His escape is an evidence against him; if he was an honest man, he would never have taken such a step. I fear he will not be retaken. His assistants have doubtless taken measures to effect his escape back to Long-Island. Shall endeavour to apprehend him. Altho' I expect success is improbable.

I am, &c.

His Excellency Gov^r^ GREEN.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull Esq^r^, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

STRATFORD, Nov^r^ 30^th^, 1780.

S^R^, — M^rs^ Forgue applies to your Excellency for permission to visit her daughter, the lady of the Rev^d^ M^r^ Ja^s^ Sayre, now on Long Island. I beg leave in behalf of my daughter Nancy to entreat the favour of your Excellency that she may accompany M^rs^ Forgue in her visit. M^rs^ Sayre & my daughter were bred up together from early infancy in the strictest & most endearing familiarity

* William Samuel Johnson was born in Stratford, Conn., Oct. 7, 1727, graduated at Yale College in 1744, and after serving for a time as a lay reader in the Episcopal church, began in 1747 the study of the law. He twice represented his native town in the General Assembly, and afterward sat in the Governor's Council. From 1767 to 1771 he was in England to represent the interest of the Colony in the territory occupied by the Mohegan Indians. He withdrew from public life not long after the breaking out of hostilities between the mother country and the Colonies, "and not being able conscientiously to join in a war against England, he lived in retirement in Stratford until the conclusion of peace." From 1784 to 1787 he was a member of the Continental Congress; and he also did good service in the Convention which framed the Federal Constitution, and was the first Senator from Connecticut elected under the new government. From 1787 to 1800 he was President of Columbia College, New York. He died in Stratford Nov. 14, 1819. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Yale College, vol. i. pp. 762–764; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. p. 449. — EDS.

& friendship. By the unfortunate accidents of these calamitous times they have been long separated & with mutual warmth & anxiety wish to see each other again, & that the more earnestly as it is expected that Mrs Sayre will early in the spring take her departure for Europe. To indulge the warm & tender feelings of friendship, wherever it can be done without prejudice to the public, will, I know, ever give your Excellency pleasure. My daughter will not, I am persuaded, have it in her power in the least degree to injure the public by such permission; but if it were ever so much in her power, your Excellency may be assured, it is neither in her inclination or disposition to do the least injury. She loves her country, is in principle a daughter of liberty, of the nicest honour & strictest integrity, and would gladly do anything becoming her sex to promote & secure the public weal. In addition to her own principles & inclinations, she will be content to submit also to the strongest injunctions she can be laid under, if she may obtain this favour of your Excellency; and I will be answerable for her that she will not in the remotest degree recede from any engagements it may be tho't expedient for her to enter into upon this occasion. Besides Mrs Sayre, my daughter has also many other friends & relations there, which she much wishes to see, some of whom are warmly attached to the American cause & interest, tho' their situation & circumstances in life unfortunately compel them to continue on that side. Precedents of such permissions given to the ladies have, I am told, been frequent, & she reminds me particularly of that of Mrs Moor & her daughter in the summer past, which she flatters herself will facilitate her application.

To me personally, the permission to my daughter to make this visit would be a singular favour, in regard I was executor to my sister Nicoll, whose children are now come of age, to whom she might exhibit my accounts, &

obtain for me such discharges as may prevent much future altercation & trouble, sho'd Providence remove me before those affairs are settled. Add to this, that I have demands upon the personal property of my mother left in my deceased brother's hands, which she may enquire after, & perhaps procure a satisfaction for, & to obtain money from under the power of the enemy, for debts or demands antecedent to the war has, I apprehend, been esteemed by everybody at least innocent, if not meritorious.

The detail of the proceedings, & the entering into the necessary engagements, under the permission, to prevent all possible wrong or even umbrage, would, I presume, be committed to the care of Gen^{ll} Silliman, or some other proper persons here. I therefore trouble your Excellency with no particulars of that nature; & will only add, that the favour of your Excellency's permission upon this occasion will lay both my daughter & me under the greatest obligations, & will ever be remember'd with the sincerest gratitude. I have the honour to be, with the most perfect respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient &
must humble servant.

His Excellen^{y} Gov^{r} Trumbull. W^{m} Sam^{ll} Johnson.

GLORIANA ANN JOHNSON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

Stratford, Dec^{r} 2^{d}, 1780.

S^{R}, — My papa applies to your Excellency for permission for me to visit my friend M^{rs} Sayre upon Long Island, & I beg leave to join in earnestly entreating the same favor. Even from our infancy the sincerest friendship has subsisted between us; we have been long seperated

* Gloriana Ann Johnson, daughter of William Samuel Johnson, was born in March, 1757, and married Major Robert Alden, a graduate of Yale College in the class of 1773. — Eds.

& our tender regard for each other makes us wish most earnestly for a meeting, & should my request be denied I have much reason to fear from M^rs^ Sayre's expectations of leaving America that I never shall see her again, which would be a great unhappiness to us both. But I will hope that your Excellency will not think my request unreasonable or improper & will have the goodness to comply with it, & let me have the satisfaction of once more seeing so dear a friend. Could I conceive that the indulgence could be of the least disadvantage or injure the public in the least degree I would never ask it, for I feel the warmest attachment to my country, most sincerely wish the good & happiness of it, & would most readily & willingly do everything in my power to promote it, but would sooner die than injure it. But tho' I cannot think it in my power to be either of advantage or disadvantage to it and would ever avoid the latter as far as I am capable of judging, yet I am willing, & indeed should wish to be laid under the strictest injunctions, & to submit to any restrictions that your Excellency shall think proper, if you grant the favor I ask, & shall ever think myself under the greatest obligation to your Excellency, & you will ever have the sincerest wishes of a grateful heart for your best good & happiness while life is continued to,

Your Excellency's most obed^t^ & most hum^le^ ser^t^.

GLORIANA ANN JOHNSON.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JOHN LAWRENCE.*

For John Lawrence Esq^r^, at Hartford, Connecticutt.

PHILADELPHIA, Decem^r^ 1^st^, 1780.

SIR, — Your letter of the 11^th^ ult^o^ hath been duly receiv^d^ and laid before Congress, and by them refer^d^ to the Board of Treasury who have not yet made their report.

* John Lawrence was born in Hartford, June 11, 1719, and died in 1802. He was Treasurer of Connecticut from 1769 to 1789. See Memorial History of Hartford County, vol. i. p. 654. — EDS.

As I find myself under a necessity to remaining in Congress much longer than I expected, for it was my wish & full expectation to have returned home in Octo^r last, I am under the necessity of requesting that one hundred pounds in hard money may be sent me, and must desire your kind assistance to obtain an order from the Committee of pay table, or from whom else it may be necessary to procure the order, for that purpose, & send me the money by Brown, or the first safe oppertunity.

Be assured, Sir, I should not make this request if I could with decency or comfort subsist without the money; let the money be charged to my account. I hope this request may be granted as I have never yet receiv^d for my services a sum equal to pay my necessary expences while attending in Congress.

I must also request you to forward the several letters herewith enclos^d by the first opportunity; the next post after they come to hand will answer the purpose if no safe conveyance should offer sooner. By the last intelligence receiv^d from the southward it is suppos^d that Cornwallis himself was got to Charlestown very sick, & that the remains of his little army under Lord Rawdon were retreating to the same place; & our forces in pursuit of them were not in a situation to promise certain expectation of cutting off their retreat.

I have the honour to be, with esteem & respect,

Your humble servant.

Treasurer Lawrence. Sam. Huntington.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

State of Vermont, In Council, Bennington, Dece^r 12^th^, 1780.

Sir, — Inclos'd I transmit your Excellency a copy of my letter to Congress of the 25^th^ of July last which, to-

* For notice of Thomas Chittenden, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 192 *n*. — Eds.

gether with this, I request may be laid before the Legislature of the State over whom you preside, for their perusal and consideration, as it is the only method that Vermont has at present in her power of soliciting a union with the United States, to propose it to their several Legislatures seperately. And as I have not receiv'd any answer from Congress to my proposal of union in my said letter to them, nor to sundry other similar offers from this government, with additional proffers to that honorable body to bear a just proportion of the expense of the present war with Great-Britain it does not appear that Congress have determined to admit this State into union.

The arguments and representations exhibited in my said letter to Congress are equally applicable for the consideration of the several Legislatures of the United States. This being premised, I proceed to propose an alliance and permanent confederation between the States of Connecticut & Vermont against the hostile attempts of British power, on such conditions as may be agreed upon for the mutual advantage and security of the liberties and independance of the two States respectively.

Similar proposals are made to the Legislatures of the State of Rhod-Island and Providence Plantations by this government, and also a demand on the Legislatures of the States of New-York, New-Hampshire, and Massachusetts-Bay to relinquish their claims of jurisdiction to Vermont, with proposals to unite with them in a like union.

The citizens of this State are of opinion that it is owing to the undue influence which those contiguous claiming States (to this territory) have in Congress, that Vermont has been hitherto prevented from a union with the United States.

This they consider as the greatest injustice & ingratitude, as they have ever since the commencement of the present war been a frontier in part to every of them, and in such circumstances have nothing better to expect

from them at the conclusion of this war than to be obliged to wage another with them, to protect their liberties against their exhorbitant claims, or fall a prey to them, notwithstanding such a series of sufferings and beneficial services done to the United States in general, and to them in particular, in the course of this war. And although these considerations abstracted from all others are sufficiently discouraging, yet additional evils arise when we consider the force of the enemy in Canada, the probability of their being reinforced between this and the conclusion of the next campaign, together with their advantage of the navigation of the Lakes, by which means they can suddenly bring their whole force into this State, which cannot fail to be their object next campaign (unless some measures be immediately adopted to prevent it), as the frontier settlements of the State of New-York are already destroyed.

In a word, their force will be so great that it will be out of the power of this State to form magazines and support a body of troops sufficient to withstand them, and the consequences must inevitably be, either that the inhabitants of this State be sacrificed, or 2ndly they must be obliged to retire into the interior parts of the United States for safety, or 3rdly be under the disagreable necessity of making the best terms with the British that may be in their power.

Nearly the same would be the condition of either of the United States, seperately considered from their union (as they would be unable to withstand the British power) which may abundantly serve to evince that it is out of the power of Vermont to be further serviceable to them, unless they are admitted into union.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of
respect & esteem, your Excellency's
very obedt, humble servt.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull. Thos: Chittenden.

OLIVER WOLCOTT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, 18 Decr, 1780.

SIR, — The most material matters which have been transacted in Congress since my arrival has been an appointment of an envoy to the Court of France, and a vote to send a minister to the Court of Russia. The expediency of sending an envoy to the Court of France was much doubted of by a number of gentlemen, as nothing was proposed to be transacted of that particularity and importance but what might properly be done by our residentiary ministers at that Court; that the measure might excite wrong and very improper apprehensions; that it might be understood by Dr Franklin and the world in general as wearing an appearance unfavourable to his character, which while he was in so important an office prudence as well as justice oblidged us to support; that instead of an envoy our minister in France ought to have the aid of an active intelligent secretary, an aid which every other minister in less important service had been furnished with. But upon a division it was carryed, and Col. Laurens, a gentleman, it is said, of real abilities, is charged with this commission. The vote to send a minister to Russia met but with little opposition upon the consideration of the influence of that Court upon the general affairs of Europe, and as paying a respect to a princess of the greatest dignity. Mr Dana may probably be sent to that Court. Mr J. Adams is charged with the commission which the late President Laurens was to execute.

Mr Williams writes from France, that the reason why no more of the cloathing has not been sent has been owing to a quarrel between Capt Landais and some of our other officers. The occasion of this delay will be

* For notice of Oliver Wolcott, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 75 *n.* — EDS.

enquired into. The rest of the supplies may probably soon be in America.

M^r^ Vergennes wrote to M^r^ J. Adams then in Paris with regard to the measure adopted by Congress for cancelling their currency at a discount, & manifested some apprehensions he had that Congress might not be able to vindicate the justice of the measure. M^r^ Adams, I think, returned a very convincing answer, in which in a particular manner he stated the true principles upon which Congress proceeded, and in my apprehension clearly shewed that justice dictated the measure. It is presumed that the Minister will be satisfied with the propriety of the act. No unfavourable symtoms appear which indicate any want of cordiality in that Court. Your Excellency has probably heard that the Count de Sartine is removed from the Marine Department. The reasons for this are not known; it is said that this gentleman had no professional acquaintance with naval affairs, and that the most perfect amity had not subsisted between him and the Count de Estaing.

We have pritty undoubted information that Portugal has acceded to the plan of neutrality proposed by Russia.

There is a very probable account that S^r^ Harry Clinton has sent to the British Court for ten thousand additional troops, or that he might be permitted to return home; that this Court have signified to him their intire approbation of his conduct, and have, it is said, determined to send him the succours asked for to carry on their military operations to the southward.

By accounts from the southward we learn that our affairs there are becoming more prosperous, small advantages are pritty frequently gained upon the enemy. Lord Cornwallis apprehends, it seems, that he can put no confidence in the people who have rec^d^ his protection; in this probably he is not mistaken; this has induced him to exercise a most severe government over them, which has

occasioned many of these people to join our troops. Every defection increases his severity which has a proportionable influence upon the people, and as they will find the government perfectly insupportable it is to be hoped that exertions will be made by them adequate to repel the violence which oppresses them.

Your Excellency has probably been informed that a rapid depretiation of the old bills had taken place in this town; this occasioned the inhabitants to meet, who fixed the discount at 75 for one. The immediate consequence of this was an advance of the specie price upon all vendables, so that not the least advantage has been derived from the measure. The practical discount is about one hundred for one. What seems to have been the immediate cause of the depretiation has been a vast influx of the bills from the southward. In S. Carolina & Georgia they can be but of little use. In N. Carolina, who have not yet adopted the money system of Congress, they are very low, but yet pass at twice the value of a late State emission which they have issued. In Virginia, who, it is said, are issuing a State emission, the depretiation is also very great. This occasions the money to be brought here to exchange or realize. These causes will probably continue to operate for some time, as the old money is but a very little of it yet cancelled, and a large part of taxes paid in certificates, and State emissions made. I believe there are none of the new bills of Congress emitted south of the Jersys. This State have put out a few of them and made them a tender at 75 for one. Pensylvania are about to pass an act relative to the new money system. What will be the ultimate fate of the new bills cannot be known absolutely but upon tryal. The State emissions of Connecticut, Pensylvania, and Maryland, which were well funded, now pass in the relation to the old bills one for forty. Bills of exchange sell here at 75 and 80 per cent; I suppose this is nearly the case in all

the States, — an evidence that there is no high demand for specie for commercial purposes abroad, or that bills of exchange are plenty. I suppose that they must continue so while a French fleet and army are in this country, and while Congress at the same time continue to draw upon their commissioners in Europe. Upon these principles but little specie will go from us, except what shall be clandestinely sent to N. York, which will not probably be very great, and which upon every principle ought to be totally prevented. The large expenditure of specie by the French army and navy in the country, and but very little of it sent abroad, must rapidly increase the quantity, and may probably, if continued but for even a short time, produce a redundancy, especially in the northern States. This will be a cause of luxury, dissipation, and injustice.

The doings of the Convention who met at Hartford are in the hands of a Committee. The object of finance will come under consideration. But the effect of these deliberations will probably be slow and perhaps unproductive. We have no money in the Continental chest, and have but a little prospect of having it supplied. As the post is going out of town shall only add that since writing the above some alteration has been made by Congress in the style of their new ministers, and M^{r} Dana is appointed for Russia. I am,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} servant,

Oliver Wolcott.

P. S. Before I close up my letter I cannot but express the chagrin that almost every man must feel in reflecting that the old bills, which are fit but for little else but to make the tail of a paper kite with, at least their value may not be worth more than 500,000 lb. sterling, should so extremely imbarrass our affairs, and that it seems to be an evil which will probably continue for a long time

to oppress us in the way in which we are proceeding. Congress will consider the object of finance as a very delicate affair, as it truly is; every one is interested in the subject; and the opinions of mankind in regard to it are very different. To do justice to the possessors of the bills, to obviate the mischief which they occasion, and to maintain the honour and reputation of the publick in regard to those objects, are difficulties of a peculiar nature. Congress have been so much criminated for what they have already done upon this head that it appears to me they will depend upon the efficacy of the measures already adopted, the certainty of which is pritty precarious, when it is considered how little of the old money is cancelled. How farr individual States may proceed in this business I cannot say; — at present the war is and must be supported by an exertion individually exerted.

As I have thot it my duty to give your Excellency every information in regard to the general state of affairs here and to the southward, I could wish that the present opportunity would have allowed me time to have done it in a more correct manner.

Your Excellency's humble servt.

O. Wolcott.

His Excellency Gov. Trumbull.

Col. Root's son has the small pox, and he tells me he shall not chuse to write, least possibly some accident may happen.

Indorsed: 18th December, 1780. M. General Wolcott, *de* Sundry, recd 5th Janry, 1781.

ARTHUR LEE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec^{r} 25th, 1780.

DEAR SIR, — I shoud sooner have complyd with my promise of writing to you, had any thing worth communicating occurrd. We have prevaild with Congress, after much difficulty & I am afraid too great delay, to send a special Minister to the Court of Versailles for the attainment of the aids we want. Since my arrival here, I have recommended three things to Congress as essentially necessary to the welfare of our country: The appointment of a Minister to support our cause with the Empress of Russia, who is the head of the neutral powers; the establishment of a Secretary of State for foreign affairs, who may conduct them with intelligence & regularity; & the recal of D^{r} Franklin, whose conduct I consider as injurious to the honor & interests of these United States.

The first has been adopted & carried into execution, M^{r} Dana being appointed Chargé des Affaires at the Court of Petersburg. The other two are now under the consideration of Congress. The reports of some captains, lately arrivd from L'Orient, relative to the mismanagement in dispatching the supplies for the army, none of which are yet arrivd, contribute to shew more clearly the necessity of D^{r} Franklin's removal, as Congress have it under his hand that they were furnishd a year ago, & the not having expedited them has every appearance of designd neglect.

We have no certain accounts from the southward of the motions of Gen^{l} Leslie & the troops under his command, since they evacuated Virginia.

My nephew desires his respects to y^{r} Excellency & I

* For a notice of Arthur Lee, see 6 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ix. p. 214 *n*. — EDS.

beg the favor of being rememberd to your son whom I had the pleasure of seeing again at Fish-kill.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect & esteem, y^{r} Excellency's most obed^{t} & most humble serv^{t}.

ARTHUR LEE.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 25th Decem., 1780. Arthur Lee, Esq^{r}, *de* D^{r} Franklin, M^{r} Dana, &c.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Decemb^{r} 27th, 1780.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The want of a safe conveyance, and my son's having the small pox in the family, of which he is got well, prevented my writing to you sooner.

Inclosed are extracts of letters which passed between the Count Vergenes, Minister of France & M^{r} John Adams, which needs no comment, also a copy of a letter wrote to the Board of War from the President & Council of Pensylvania, avowing & justifying their orders to L^{t} Hunter to stop supplies carrying on to Wyoming by order of the Commissary Gen^{l}; and the subsequent resolution of Congress respecting that post; the whole being of such a nature & complexion I thought it my duty to communicate the whole to your Excellency, that you may write to Gen^{l} Washington on the subject, in case you shall think it proper & necessary.

The tenour of the armed neutrality among the northern powers, the States which have acceeded to it & their naval force, with the manner in which it is received in Britain, the inclosed papers will explain. Nothing is clearer than that this confederacy does most pointedly counteract the veiws of Britain with respect to America, for it legitimates a free trade with us without exception,

which has been inderdicted by Great Britain Mos^{r} Guichen arrived at Cadiz on y^{e} 24th of Oct^{r}, with a convoy of 140 sail of merchantmen, where was also Count de Estang with 74 ships of the line. M^{r} H. Laurence is committed to the Tower on a charge of high treason. M^{r} Adams is impowered to negociate the business in Holland which M^{r} Laurence was to have done. M^{r} Francis Dana is appointed our Minister at the Court of Petersburgh to acceede to the neutrality & to negociate other business which may be beneficial to these States. Col. John Laurence is appointed to go to France to enforce the reasons for granting us the aid solicited from thence & to send over the supplies so much wanted for our army.

The British ministry hold up to their people an idea of paccification, to keep up the credit of their funds & quiet their [*torn*] under the heavy losses they have sustained in the summer past, and to amuse their enemies while they are secretly meditating war & reveange. The King's speech at the opening of his new parliament, it is said, contains nothing very important; only with respect to America he is please to observe, that those rebellious subjects who rise against government must be reduced to destruction or the constitution must fail. Overtures have been made by the British ministry to the Court of Madrid for an accommodation, which that Court rejected unless France should be included — to which the British Minister replied, that France was so connected with America that they could not treat without America. To this the Spanish Minister answered, that his Court was no less bound to France than France to America.

The system of government over these States as at present exercised is extremely defective. The sovereign power of war & peace, having no permanent funds in its possession, nor the means of establishing any, must feel itself weak & prevent or defeat almost every measure however necessary & render the execution languid, tardy

& oft times wholly abortive. The wealth of the States constitutes the great fund on which we must depend for credit abroad & for resources at home; and while these are drawn forth at the volition of each State, by recommendatory requisitions only, it is in the power of any State to defeat the most important measure. The union of these thirteen States for their mutual interest & safety constitutes a republic of States or political persons, of which great republic each State constitutes one member or subject, over which Congress is appointed to preside, and it is as necessary that Congress should exercise the powers of coercion over the particular States for the general purposes of the confederacy, as it is that the confederacy should continue in its present form, or that each State should exercise such power over its particular citizens for the weal of the State; and this power is so far from infringing upon the rights or sovereignty of the particular States that it is as necessary for the preservation of them as the union itself.

The result of the Convention at Hartford has been laid before Congress and is committed. I flatter myself it will serve to facilitate some usefull & necessary regulations. The business of finance in the present scituation is distressing & extremely embarassed. Had all the States punctually complied with the resolution of the 18th of March, with respect to sinking the old bills & issuing the new, & had the new issued in the time, quantity & credit proposed, four tenths only is to go into the Continental chest which would be a very inadequate supplie. But few of the States have issued any of the money, some have not taken resolutions even to comply, & the new bills issue with an evident depreciation; besides I dont see how it will be practicable to sink the old bills by taxes on account of the unequal manner in which they are distributed in the States. Some have a great surplus, while others lack of their quota. To stop the

circulation by a resolve of Congress is a stroke of power which has been already but too often repeated for the credit of public bodies. It is easy to see how such an exertion of power must disagreably effect the credit of the new money, for individuals will distrust the faith of that body which in any instance makes use of its power to alter or rescind its engagements to their prejudice. By the system ten million of dollars only was to be put into circulation, one sixth to be sunk annually; beside this the States must be taxed annually to raise the current supplies, the year is very far elapsed, the measure but partially executed in any & not even attempted in some. Query, will it be possible for the States now to carry this system into execution & at the same time raise the necessary supplies for the next year? The pay of the army which is in arrear eight months will swallow up the $\frac{4}{10}$.

The resources of a country are to be estimated by the wealth of its citizens and the means established for drawing that wealth into public use. The ordinary method of doing this is by taxation; and as this must be laid on by general rules in equal proportion scarce any State is able by this means to raise more than one half of what its inhabitants are able to pay, because while one part is oppressed the other scarcely feels the burden. Recourse ought therefore to be had to other means to releive the necessities of the public by more equal exactions; & this, I think, may be done by duties & imposts in the Continental way, if judiciously laid & carefully collected; for if they are laid by the particular States for their particular benefit, it is easy to see that the collection will be vastly unequal. For one State may import for many others who consume the articles & of consequence pay the duties which the State that imports takes the benefit of, whereas if laid in a Continental way & for Continental use no State will pay for more than it consumes & none

share in the profits beyond its just quota. Again if these duties are laid indiscriminately on all the necessaries of life it must distress the poorer sort which ought to be releived: but if they are laid upon luxuries & superfluities which are consumed only by the rich & opulent an amazing sum might be raised without distressing any body. But why do I trouble your Excellency with reasoning upon a measure which is evidently out our power to put in to practice.

A letter is just received from Gen[l] Green, informing Congress that it is impracticable at this juncture to institute a court of enquiry on the conduct of Gen[l] Gates; and that his transactions at that time was more owing to misfortune than misconduct in the opinion of the officers that were present. It contains also a confirmation of the taking of Major Wemys, &c., by Gen[l] Sumpter, also the repulse of Col. Tarlton on the 20[th] ult[o]. The action was severe, the enemy were repulsed & rallied three times, finally quitted the field & left 92 dead & 100 wounded. The approach of night prevented our people from pursuing to advantage; also an account of the capture of one M[r] Rugers, Col. Cook & 112 Tory officers & soldiers who had immured themselves in a log barn on s[d] Rugers* plantation — the barn was abatterd, Lt. Col. Washington, with about 90 light dragoons, knowing their situation, got a pine log & mounted it on carriage wheels in form of a cannon, approached in full view of the barn with this formidable peice of artillery, and to prevent the shocking scene of bloodshed & slaughter that must follow the first discharge of this mighty cannon, he humanely summoned them to surrender, which they readily did without firing a gun. Mons[r] Terney's death was not heard of till yesterday. I have inclosed to your Excellency the Journals of Congress for Sept[r] & Oct[r], being all that are printed, and the vol. of 1778, which M[r]

* Henry Rugely. See Sabine's American Loyalists, vol. ii. p. 242. — Eds.

Sherman desired me to send by Brown, and several of the latest papers. I must ask your Excellency's pardon for troubling you with so long a scroll & which I had not time to copy.

I am, with perfect respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} & most humble serv^{t}.

JESSE ROOT.

P. S. Gen^{l} Clinton has wrote home to be recalled or reinforced with ten thousand men.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 27th December, 1780. Col^{o} Jesse Root, *de* sundry, rec^{d} 7th Jan^{ry}, 1781, at noon, p M^{r} Jesse Brown.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, December 29, 1780.

SIR, — I do myself the honor to transmit your Excellency the agreable intelligence of the success of Gen. Sumpter & L^{t} Col. Washington contained in the enclosed Despatches N° 1 & N° 2.

It is said a reinforcement is gone from New York to South Carolina, and that Admiral Rodney with nine sail of the line is gone to the West Indies.

From the situation & disposition of the powers in Europe, Russia in particular, by the latest intelligence, Congress have thought it expedient immediately to send a Minister to the Court of Petersburgh, and for the sake of despatch, among other considerations, have appointed the Hon^{ble} Francis Dana, Esquire, (now in Europe & Secretary to M^{r} J. Adams) to that important mission. The appointment ought not to be published at present, for obvious reasons.

Colonel John Trumbull was in London the 25th of October last, and had been there some time in company

with M^r West, the celebrated painter. This intelligence I have received from a gentleman, just arrived in this city from London, who tells me he saw M^r Trumbull and conversed with him & a number of other Americans who had taken an active part in the war in America, and appeared openly in the city & no notice taken of them by authority.

From my present situation & engagements necessity obliges me to depend upon my colleagues to give your Excellency more particular & frequent intelligence than I can possibly do, which I have no doubt they will faithfully perform.

I have the honor to be, with every sentiment of esteem & respect, your Excellency's most obedient & most humble servant.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 29th Decem^r, 1780. President Huntington, *de* Col^o Jn^o Trumbull, in London, &c.

THE COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEWPORT, January 1st, 1781.

SIR, — Your Excellency's letters of the 29 & 30 past I have received this morning. I have not been able to go myself to Newhaven, but I had sent there one in whom I could trust. The place would be exceeding fine

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* Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, was born at Vendôme July 1, 1725, and died at Thoré May 10, 1807. He entered the military service as a cornet of cavalry at an early age, and serving with distinction in various campaigns was rapidly promoted. In March, 1780, he was made a Lieutenant-General, and was sent to America in command of the French auxiliary forces. After a short campaign in Rhode Island he joined Washington, and took a conspicuous part in the siege of Yorktown. After his return to France, and at the breaking out of the Revolution, he rendered services which were not fully appreciated by the Revolutionists, and he was imprisoned and narrowly escaped death. His last years were spent in retirement. See Nouvelle Biographie Générale, tome 42, pp. 452–454. — EDS.

for troops, and certainly we shall make use of it in the spring ; and when the operations will begin, it will very likely be one of our best and principal marts, which is a reason for not draining it in this moment.

I own to you that I have the greatest repugnancy for the winter quarter, to put there a regiment of two battalions. I make a constant rule in war as well as in morality never to tempt the devil, and if I were in Clinton's place, I would have a great hankering to fall upon a corps that would be with so much difficulty succoured, by its distance from the other troops and the difficulty of the ferrys upon the river of Connecticut. I would like much better, if your Excellency and the Council find that N. London 3. Norwich and Windham are too much troubled by the troops, that they were put towards Hadham and Midletown, any where that your Excellency chuses between the Thames and Connecticut rivers. These are the military reasons that ought to guide the winter quartering of troops, and I beg of your Excellency to consider them, in case of the arrival of our second division, this season.

As to the supplies proposed upon public contract by the 4 N. E. and N. Y. States, I am ready to listen to all the propositions that will be made. I will have the honor to observe to your Excellency that 'till now, I have been extremely satisfied with Colonel Wadsworth, who has our principal confidence, that the formalities and the delays unavoidable in the administration of the States, have wherewith to make me fear for an army whose needs are always pressing, that the example I have had here of the different troops during the campaign, from the States of Boston and Rhode-Island is not encoraging, because I have been obliged in five or six occasions to send them provisions that they wanted several times. However, your Excellency may be persuaded that we will listen, the Admiral and I, to all the propositions that

will be made, from the great desire we have to agree to all that can be beneficial to the common cause.

I have the honor to be, with high esteem,
Sir, your Excellency's most obedient
& most humble servant.
LE C^TE DE ROCHAMBEAU.

Indorsed: 1st January, 1781. General Rochambeau, *de* Supplies, &c.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. To His Excellency Jon^th Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut, at Lebanon. J. Root.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan^y 8th, 1781.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — About 8 o'clock last Monday night the Pensylvania line mutinyed, the 1st & 5th regiments remained on the ground, but were forced by the others to join, two Captains were killed, several subalterns & privates wounded in attempting to suppress them. They marched in a body to PrinceTown, in spite of every effort [of?] their officers to reduce them to order, where they remain under the command of the sergeants with guards posted, Gen^l Waine, Col^s Stewart & Buttler are at Princetown, to whom the mutineers have sent a guard. President Reed went to Princetown last Friday & a Comm^ttee from Congress are at Trentown.

Their grievances are, 1st, that many of them enlisted for three years or during the war, & are held in service over the three years by vertue of such enlistment; 2nd, that they have not received their pay or cloathing; but what had great influence in raising the mutiny was, recruiting officers coming among them with hard money to enlist the seven months men who had received large sums for the seven months service. This was too much for them to bear. Last Saturday a spy with a guide from

Gen^{l} Clinton came into their camp with proposals a copy of which is enclosed; they took them both & sent them with the proposals to Gen^{l} Wayne, who sent them to Trenton where they are safely lodged in goal.

Two vessels arrived yesterday from France, but bring no public despatches; they were but partly freighted, saw the public cloathing at L'Orient, could have bro^{t} some of them, but no body appeared to ship them, altho they advertised their want of freight. However, they say that a large East Indiaman is coming round to le Orient to take them in; they say that 9 ships of the line & 4,000 troops are at Nants ready to sail, supposed to be for America.

No news material from the southward since my last; the embarkation that lately took place at New York under Arnold, Gen^{l} Washington informs, consisted of about 1,600 men and are supposed to be gone to the southward. The time for paying the army is arrived; the plan of the 18th of March last is productive of very little money yet, & appears more & more dubious. I think there must be a total reform of the system. Congress must exercise the proper powers & establish all the necessary executive boards & offices; and as the wealth of a nation is the aggregate wealth of its citizens, the spring of industry, and economy the prospect of advantage, which prospect will be more or less opperative according to the opinion the people have of the justice of the government under which they live, the security it affords to property, & the liberty it gives to every one to make the most of what they have to put off in an honest way; to remove therefore all fetters & embarrasments on trade, except with the enemy, omit to force upon any person paper bills for money, & to take measures to encourage industry & economy, & to revive the confidence of the people in the justice of their rulers, I think is the only natural & wise method to extricate ourselves from our present embar-

rassments into which we are brot in some measure by unnatural expedients.

This will lay a foundation to enable the citizens to pay largely for the public use, & give government firmness & support; but every expedient must be attempted before we will consent to adopt those plain, easey & natural methods which are the only paths to wealth, peace & safety. — Jany 9th; by letters from Fredericksburg, 48 sail appeared in Chesepeak Bay last Saturday, supposed to be the detachment which lately sailed from New York under Arnold. Col. Tarlton received another stroke from Cols Marian & Clark on ye 10th ult., in which the former lost upwards of one hundred men killed. The famous Major Rogers was taken prisoner coming from Penobscot by one of our privateers & brot to Philadelphia.

Congress have passed a resolution directing retaliation to be made on the British troops in our hands for the barbarities exercised by them towards our people.

Also have called upon the States to raise by the 1st of March next 80,000 dollars in specie for the support of the prisoners, — the quota assigned to Connecticut is 9,855 dos.

This was done upon a representation that they were much in debt & suffered exceedingly for want of money. The Journals of Novr are not out.

With the greatest esteem & respect,

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedt, humble servt.

JESSE ROOT.

P. S. Govr Nash writes that he is informed that the Georgians have taken arms against Mr Wright their new British Governor.

Accounts from Virginia which may be depended on say that the Cherrokees have begun hostilities on the back settlements of Virginia & N. Carolina.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. T. Chittenden.

ARLINGTON, 8th January, 1781.

DEAR SIR, — The peculiar circumstances which this State has been under since independance is the only reason why I have not solicited a correspondance with your Excellency long before this time.

I have not only to mannage the affairs of government in a perplexing war with Great-Britain (which I am sensible you have found by experience is an arduous task), but am under the additional disadvantage of having to grope in the dark, without the least correspondence with, or intelligence from, any cabinet or public officer on the continent.

It appears hard, that while we are all struggling in one common cause for the mutual benefit of each other, (the event of which will be equally beneficial or fatal to us all, provided this State is admitted into union) that I should be deprived of so necessary a priviledge.

I therefore earnestly request your Excellency to favour me with a few lines by the bearer (Majr Fay) on our public affairs, which will be acknowledged by one who has the honor to be, with the greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's very obedient, humble servant,

THOS CHITTENDEN.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

JOHN HANCOCK* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOSTON, January 9th, 1781.

SEAL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut:

I wou'd represent to Your Excellency that the Inhabitants of the Town of Plymouth in this Commonwealth of Massachusetts are in want of flour & grain for their own consumption & wou'd therefore recommend Ephraim Bartlett, Master of the Sloop Polly, an inhabitant of said Town, for your Excellency's permission to purchase flour, grain & provisions to relieve the necessities of said inhabitants.

JOHN HANCOCK.

By his Excellency's command. JOHN AVERY, Sec^y.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut. Free. O. Wolcott.

PHILADELP^A, 9th Jan^y, 1781.

SIR, — I enclose to your Excellency an order of Congress for printing the civil constitutions of the several States. As the charter of the former Colony would be improper to put amongst these publications, a correct account therefore of the governing principles of that charter and the fundamental laws of the State relative thereto seems to be what is necessary, unless in the ac-

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* John Hancock was born at Quincy, Mass., Jan. 12, 1737, graduated at Harvard College in 1754, and died in his native town Oct. 8, 1793. From 1775 to 1780 and from 1785 to 1786 he was a member of the Continental Congress, and President of that body at the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. From 1780 to 1785 and from 1787 to his death he was Governor of Massachusetts. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. pp. 71, 72). The foregoing document has the autograph signatures of the Governor and the Secretary, and the State seal is affixed. — EDS.

count of the constitution we derive its origin from an earlier period than the charter, which I suppose may be done if it shall be tho't best, and in that veiw consider the charter only as a confirmation of that constitution which was derived from the voluntary convention of the ancient settlers of the former colony. As the publication of the constitution of the State of Connecticut under this order of Congress ought to be quite correct, and will be considered as authentick, and perhaps will be required to be attested as such, I therefore do not think it proper for me, immersed in the variety of dayly business here, to give a formal account of our constitution, when perhaps some error or omission might be productive of consequences which cannot now be easily foreseen. I think it therefore my duty to request that your Excellency would please to transmit an account of the constitution of our State for the publication intended. I will observe to your Excellency that this present measure has been at this time adopted, upon the recommendation of M^{r} J. Adams, for foreign information, and that most of the constitutions of the States are now ready for publication, and that therefore unless the acc^{o} of the constitution of Connecticut is soon had it will occasion a delay.

The condition of the money here continues much as it was when I did myself the honour to write last to your Excellency. None of the new bills of the 18^{t} of March have been yet issued in this State. By Act of government the bills which shall issue upon the credit of this State are made a tender at 75 for one. The old currency which has yet been brought into the Treasury of this State has issued to procure supplies. The new bills cannot be said to have a currency in this city. A clothier from Jersy a few days ago brought a large sum of the new bills of that State here to lay them out to procure supplies, but could not purchase with them the supplies wanted. A very few of the new bills have issued in

Maryland. That State gave liberty to any person to exchange the old bills for the new at 33⅓ for one. This Act is said now to be altered and the exchange is at 40 for one. I shall make no observations upon these facts, only observe that unless the United States as such can establish a fund, and possess the sole power of regulating whatever can be called money within all the United States, I do not see how any kind of publick credit can be supported. A superintending power destitute of any estate, any funds, any power to establish such, or to controul or regulate the money of a country, is perhaps a novelty in the history of mankind. Congress have been frequently considering the subject of their finances. They have adverted lately to the subject, and this perplexing affair will be probably farther reviewed. To obtain a cession from the States to regulate all foreign commerce, to impose such dutys on trade as Congress shall think proper pro bono publico, to call upon the States for their plate — and an unequivocal cession of their unlocated territory, will probably be the principal objects of deliberation; and in the mean time to devise some expedient for the immediate pay of the army. At present we have no certain prospect of being able to answer this last most pressing demand so soon as we wish for, — as the calls of the army are very urgent.

Col. Root informs me that he has wrote to your Excellency, I should not therefore have troubled you by the present post, were it not to have obtained the constitution of the State. He has doubtless transmitted such intelligence as we have.

I am, with the greatest regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

JAMES BOWDOIN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

Boston, Jan^{y} 15, 1781.

Sir, — I have received a letter from your son, Col^{o} Trumbull, in London, covering the enclosed letter open, which he gave me leave to communicate as I thought proper. In consequence of this permission, it has been cõmunicated to y^{e} Governor & to the General Court, and to other gentlemen, which I presume your Excellency will not disapprove. Col^{o} Trumbull does justice to the injured character of M^{r} Temple, who, if I was no way connected with him, I should be obliged to say, had merited highly of America, whose directors notwithstanding have shewn no disposition hitherto to be grateful. As the letter has been applied here to set his character right, if y^{r} Exc̃y's good opinion of him still continues, it may induce you to apply it in y^{e} same way ; and I would beg leave to suggest, whether y^{e} communicating it to Congress would not answer a good purpose.

I beg your acceptance of the enclosed pamphlet, and am very respectfully, Sir, y^{r} Excy's most ob^{t}, hble serv^{t}.

James Bowdoin.

Will y^{r} Exc^{y} be so good as to cause y^{e} enclosed for y^{e} Rev^{d} D^{r} Stiles to be forwarded ?

His Exc^{y} Gov^{r} Trumbull.

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* James Bowdoin, an eminent statesman of the Revolutionary period, was of Huguenot descent, and was born in Boston Aug. 7, 1726. He graduated at Harvard College in 1745, and died in his native town Nov. 6, 1790. For a detailed account of his public services, see Winthrop's Addresses and Speeches, vol. i. pp. 90–133. A selection from the Bowdoin and Temple Papers was printed in 6 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ix. — Eds.

OLIVER WOLCOTT AND JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, 16 Jan^ry, 1781.

SIR, — Your Excellency will receive a circular letter from the President of Congress, the principal object of which is to obtain pay for the army. In it also the States are requested to furnish provisions according to the former resolutions of Congress. The disappointment of pay, together with the deficiency of the supplies of provision and cloathing, accompanied with some other unhappy circumstances, has produced such discontent in the Pennsylvania line as has finally occasioned a considerable number of them to be discharged from the service. Such an unhappy event, it is hoped, will not take place with regard to any other line, but we certainly ought as speedily as possible to remove every cause which has produced it. The provisions for the army are expected to be derived from the several States according to former requisitions. The reason why the cloathing has not been rec^d which was to have been sent from France is not yet fully known, in all probability there must have been some great neglect in those charged with the shipping of it. But it is said that it may be soon expected. The pay of the army was expected to be made by the new bills, and which are now most urgently called for. But shall these bills seasonably issue and obtain all the credit expected from them they will probably be found very insufficient to defray the expences of the next campaign, including the large sums now due in arrears, even should the usual mode of taxation be augmented as farr as can be reasonably expected. In this veiw an application will be renewed for a foreign loan. But the success of this measure to us appears too precarious to be relied upon, and indeed the utility of the measure we apprehend may very

justly be doubted, when we consider the vast resources of this country, which might be drawn forth adequate to our wants (except cloathing and military stores which we can obtain from abroad) in case our revenue was but proportionably increased. Wheither this cannot be effected we conceive demands the most serious attention, and likewise to consider wheither some funds for the use of the United States as such cannot be established. The last year has given us the most distressing experience that there are many national expences, which the States individually cannot discharge, nor, by reason of the uncertainty and deficiency of the sums paid into the Continental chest by the usual modes of taxation, can any confidence be placed upon their being paid. The existence of a power (if it can be called such) constituted for national purposes, especially for directing the affairs of a war, not possessing any constitutional authority to command the smallest portion of property, is scarcely conceivable. We apprehend that over and above such taxes as shall be collected from particular States, for general uses, grounded upon regular estimates, and which taxes granted for such purposes ought to be regularly paid and strictly appropriated, that there ought also to be a power vested in such as superintend national affairs to raise a revenue from such property as cannot with convenience nor advantage be subject to the controul of any particular State, and thereby extend the publick credit by establishing a revenue purely national.

We cannot say but that sentiments of this kind may be tho't improper. But when we find ourselves charged in our political capacity with the violations of ingagments, and feel the loss of national credit, these sentiments appear to us just. What has been principally talked of and expected to obtain this end has been a cession to the United States of their unlocated territory, and that the States vest Congress with exclusive powers to

regulate foraign commerce and to lay reasonable dutys upon imports and exports. This is a measure not yet agreed to, and we cannot say what will be done in regard to it.

Before we close this letter we cannot but express our grief that a people who generally possess the most ardent desires to establish their libertys upon the fullest conviction of their high importance, that a country abounding with men and supplies, yet from a defect in their constitution or councils or both of them, should not seem to have it in their power to call them forth with more advantage. And altho our past experience has proved to us that our exertions have been aided by the Almighty, and that our cause is supported by two of the belligerent powers of Europe, and countenanced we believe by all the rest, except our open and professed enemys, yet we seem to be in a condition as if we did not possess those advantages. This strange situation can hardly be otherwise accounted for than that the national principles from whence union and force are to be derived are not properly established, and it may with equal propriety be said that proper arrangements to ascertain and check the publick expenditures have not yet been made, and that there is a general defect in the establishment of the civil executive departments acting immediately under Congress. These objects are likewise in contemplation and may possibly be put upon a more advantagious footing.

We have no intelligence to communicate to your Excellency but what you will find in the publick papers.

We are, with every sentiment of esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servants.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 16th Janʸ, 1781. Wolcott & Root, Esqrs, Delegates, *de* Pay of the Army, Taxes, &c. recd p Express, 28th instᵗ, meridie.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan^{y} 29th, 1781.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — Virginia has ceded to the United States a large territory of country lying northwest of the Ohio, extracts of which I enclose to you. Maryland, we are very credibly informed, has acceded to the confederation, tho no official accounts have yet arrived.

By a letter received this day from M^{r} John Adams dated in Oct^{r}, we have reason to beleive that as the king of Great Britain has got a Minister & Parliament to his mind we may lay aside thoughts of peace & prepare for war, for it is his opinion that Great Britain will never acknowledge our independance as long as there is a British soldier in our country, nor even till long after. He writes that there is some prospect of a rupture between the United Provinces & Great Britain; every day's experience convinces us of the miseries that flow from want of system in government, of proper arrangement in our finances, & in almost every department, & of that ruinous policy which influenced Congress to divide out to the different States the prosecution of the war. The new money, so far as it is issued, has been issued by the States at different values. Some at 1 for 40, by others equal to silver, & passes under all the disadvantages of State emissions, one State refusing to take the bills of another, & the bills of Pensylvania which were issued equal to silver, & have a tendry law to support them armed with dreadfull punishments, suffer a discount of 25 pr. cent. I wish we may grow wise by the things we experience; natural laws uniformly produce the same effects & to follow where reason & nature points is the perfection of humane policy. The greatest difficulties we have to encounter arise from measures, from having governed too much in

particular matters, more than from any other cause, for many particular regulations have certainly increased the difficulties they were designed to prevent. Sir, my ideas of this business differ from most people. I consider the aggregate wealth of the individuals as the wealth of the nation, & would give full scope to their wishes & exertions to acquire wealth in a lawfull way, cautiously guarding against any illicit trade with the enemy, & would fix certain modes of calling into public use so much money as they were able to pay & the public wants required; this would be the best way of establishing funds, and as the resources of our country would be almost inexhaustable under the smiles of heaven, if properly encouraged & cultivated in this way, I think we should soon become formidable not only to our enemies but to all the world. Congress are about to recommend to the States to lay duties to y^e^ amount of four pr. cent on all articles of foreign growth & manufacture imported into these States for the purpose of a revenue. Although I like the thing I dislike the mode. I think that Congress alone can regulate the trade & with success can lay duties on imports for the purpose of raising a revenue, and I think they ought to be invested with powers for this purpose, & the States might grant to them the avails for any limmitted term of time, or for a particular purpose, as they should judge proper. To suspend a regulation of this kind, which every one must se is the most equitable way of raising a considerable revenue, upon the concurrence of thirteen States is at least to suspend it upon uncertainty; some are for calling in the plate in order to establish funds, but this would be unequal & be attended with great loss. There are but two kinds of public funds that I at present think of; one is money in our Treasury, the other is money in the pockets of the citizens or the means of acquiring it, with established means of calling it out when the public exigences require

it. The latter I prefer; it is the best fund in the world. Give every encouragement to industry & economy, take of every restraint but that of trading with the enemy, & in the course of one year, if we are blessed with fruitfull seasons, the resources of the country would be nearly doubled, specie be introduced in plenty, & we should be relieved from a depreciating medium, our credit be established, & we enabled to prosecute the war with a vigor that must strike our enemies with terror & astonishment; whereas at present the farmer, the mechanic & the merchant are all discouraged, & in consequence the army is ready to mutiny for want of provisions & pay. It is my opinion we are in more danger from the regulations that have been adopted & are pursuing than from all the forces of Briton. Your Excellency will pardon the free manner in which I write, as it is in confidence, & proceeds from an anxious mind, & believe me to be, with the highest esteem & respect, your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humble serv^{t}.

JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 29th Jan^{y}, 1781. Jesse Root, Esq^{r}, *de* Virginia ceding lands west of the Ohio. Maryland said to acceed to the Confederation. M^{r} John Adams, no peace. M^{r} Root's sentiments on finance, &c. rec^{d} p M^{r} Hopkins, 15th Feb^{y} seq. Virginia resolve enclosed.

G. SELLECK SILLIMAN * TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

FAIRFIELD, February 5th, 1781.

SIR, — On the 22^{d} ult., pursuant to the order of your Excellency & Councill, transmitted to me by M^{r} Mackay, I met the major part of the Civil Authority and Select Men of Greenwich at the house of Cap^{t} David Webb in Stanford. I waited till that time, hopeing that Col^{o} Mead would have been in force sufficient to have taken post at Horse Neck. But he then was not, nor is he

* For notice of General Silliman, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 98 *n.* — EDS.

yet; therefore on notice from Col° Mead that the Authority and Select Men of Greenwich would meet me at the time and place mentioned above I repaired to that place.

We had the company of one of the Civil Authority and three of the Select Men of Stanford and a number of the officers of the militia. We then entered into the enquiries directed by the orders. And we found that the poor people liveing beyond our lines in Horse Neck, as well the Whigs as the Tories, were frequently plundered by the enemy, and often by voluntary scouts of our own people, who without any orders for it, or officer to command them, have frequently marched on to that ground and committed shocking scenes of plunder & depredation; and sometimes most shamefully beat and abuse the poor distressed people, and sometimes when they are not known will give themselves out to be of the enemy, in order to prevent a detection of their barbarity & savage inhumanity.

Some of those parties on previous appointments, have met parties from the enemy below, at the Saw Pitts and thereabout, and have received and treated each other and finally parted as friends. And it is believed that they have a good correspondence & understanding with the enemy on the subject of plunder.

Others of our own inhabitants in Horse Neck, who are known not to be friendly to the cause of their country, haveing been paroled by the enemy are frequently without any liberty therefor from any authority, civil or military, passing & repassing up & down to and from the enemy. A practice replete with danger to the State in point of giveing intelligence to the enemy, as well as in many other respects.

Others there are at and near the lines who are known to be unfriendly to their country, and are suspected of carrying on a traiterous correspondence with the enemy,

sometimes by land and sometimes by water, who are not paroled.

The gentlemen unanimously made this representation as what they had good evidence for, and gave me such an account of the matter that I believe that the representation is not exaggerated.

According to my orders we entered seriously into the consideration of the best means to prevent the repetition of such barbarous practices in future, as well as to restrain such a dangerous intercourse with the enemy.

I told the gentlemen that I thought there could be no occasion for the exercise of military authority with respect to the latter class of men. For the Authority & Select Men of Greenwich then present best knew the characters last described, and could then issue there proper warrant to apprehend them, and have them before them there, or at Palmer's Hill where Col° Mead's regim^t^ then lay; and if on examination they found them dangerous they had full power to remove them; and that if they would take that method, that their officer should have any detachment from the military which they might think necessary to enable him to do his duty.

But they said that it was as much as their lives were worth to sign such a warrant, and that should they do it, they should certainly be privately shot the first oppertunity. And that y^e^ exercise of civil authority, as to suppression of any of the before mentioned mischiefs, was totally at an end in Greenwich, and that unless the exertion of military authority could relieve them they could expect it no way; and then urged the instance of one of the lawless Long Island whale boat refugees alluded to in my orders, who had but lately fired on a civil officer in the execution of his office. And all the gentlemen present went unanimously into the same sentiments.

And finally, after long deliberation, with the unanimous

advice, approbation and consint of every gentleman present, I made the orders of which I do myself the honour to inclose a coppy, marked N° 1; and hope it may meet the approbation of your Excellency & Councill.

Since that time in pursuance of those orders, two of our own people, one from Woodbury, the other from Stanwick, have been down beyond our lines armed, gave themselves out to be of the lower party and plundered one M^r^ Coe, but on speedy application to Col° Mead, he sent a party who fell in with the plunderers and took them with the plunder on them, which was restored to the owner. Col° Mead tried them by a court martial who found them guilty and ordered them to be turned over to the civil magistrate. The Colonel has sent them to me, and I have them under guard, and am much at a loss to know what to do with them. If I let them go they will plunder again immediately, and if I prosecute them *civiliter* it will cost the publick a large sum; and they have nothing to pay the expence. But as the Superiour Court sits soon I hope to be advised what to do.

At my return I found a letter from Col° Ludlow, which came by the flag that had been over to carry M^r^ Jervis and his family. By this and what has happened since, I am convinced that the refugee Board of Directors have put it out of his power to execute his agreement. I find however that he still persists in sending back our people that are taken when not in arms. For as I went to Stanford I met Cap^t^ Casey & his boy, who had been but a few days before surprised in a sloop in Saugatuck River in the night, with a cargo of some value on board, by a whale from Loyd's Neck, who haveing carried the vessell in there Col° Ludlow sent back the prisoners without exchange. Coppies of mine to him by the flag and of his answer marked N° 2 & 3 are inclosed.

Last Thursday night 6 or 7 boats from Long Island landed at the old well at Norwalk, but the people that

were on guard gave them so warm a reception that they were obliged to reimbark again.

The same night some boats landed at Green's farms at a house between the guards, about one mile distant from either, and paroled the owner, and threatened to march up into the place, but fearing that their retreat would be cut of they did not attempt it.

The same night a boat from the Island, a little before day, came close in with our battery before she was discovered, it being extream dark, but y^e^ sentry hailed; they answered, Friends, and that they were from Stanford, and that one Conklin commanded. They were ordered to shoot by to the landing-place a little distance within the harbour, and to come on shore and bring their papers, they answered that they would. A party from the battery marched armed to receive them. But the boat being discovered durst not put about, but proceeded on as ordered, but gradually fell off toward the east side of the harbour, and were lost in a few moments under the covert of a very cloudy, dark night. But the dawn of day discovered them rolling their boat across a narrow beach near the head of the harbour into the Sound, just as they were sinking out of sight under the descent of the beach.

I am informed that three boats the same night surprised the Fort at New Haven, but I have not the particulars. And the night before last two of the enemy's boats were within the mouth of New-Field harbour, but being discovered they went of without attempting any thing. Thus we are now in perpetual alarm, and stronger guards are necessary now than ever they have been. Inclosed is a coppy of the proceedings of a Court of Enquiery ordered by Col° Mead at Palmer's Hill. The murdered man was an inhabitant of Horse-Neck, had been a soldier in our army, had deserted & inlisted into De Lancey's regiment and came out with others to Horse Neck, prin-

cipally with a view to take of Cap^{t} Sam^{l} Lockwood of Greenwich. This he attempted with his associates the night before he was hanged, but failed. The next day he was taken and confined in Col^{o} Mead's guard house, and a few minits after Cap^{t} Lockwood, with a party of Long-Island lawless refugees, marched armed with bayonets fixed, and rushed suddenly into the guard house, knocked off the fellow's hat, sliped a rope round his neck, hauled him right out of the house & throwed the rope over the limb of a tree, and hanged him instantly. Col^{o} Mead has endeavoured to secure these men, but tells me he cannot; it seems that Col^{o} De Lancey, had lately hanged one Knap in the same manner, that used to belong to Horse-Neck, who had gone over to and inlisted under him, and then forsook him and returned home and tarried a while, and then some of De Lancey's party took him and carried him back. Lockwood & his party gave out that they hanged this fellow by way of retalliation for Knap.

Your Excellency's orders by Cap^{t} Fitch I have received and immediately sent orders accordingly. And as I am directed to report to your Excellency, not only what I should do on those orders, but also what I had done on former orders on the same subject, I know no better way to do it than by laying before your Excellency the coppies of the orders which I have issued which are marked N^{o} 5, 6, 7, 8. And as soon as I get them will lay before your Excellency the further returns required of me.

I have received almost 1,000 w^{t} of lead, between 7 and 800 flints, and only 1½ ream of cartrige paper from M^{r} Pumroy. A grevious disappointment this, as to the paper! For it will not make up more than one third of the lead. I hope I may soon have a further supply of paper.

Cap^{t} Grinnel who does me the favour to be the bearer of this, is a refugee from Long Island, and has resided in this part of the State a long time and suffered the loss of

a great part of his intrest in the warr. He is in my esteem a fast friend to his country, a gentleman of honour & probity; and if the favour he has to ask can be granted to any one, I beg leave to say that I think it may be with as much safety to him as any one.

I am, most respectfully,

Your Excellency's obedient, humble servt.

G. Selleck Silliman.

His Excellency Govr Trumbull.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, OLIVER WOLCOTT, AND JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelphia, Febv 9th, 1781.

Sir, — Your favour of the 18th ultº with the inclosures we have been honoured with. The State's quota of Journals for the year 1778 are in Mr Sherman's chest at Mrs Cheesman's — the vols for 79 are not out of the press; the monthly Journals for Novr last we inclose to your Excellency. We shall pay particular attention to the resolve of Assembly respecting the Journals, & forward them by the earliest opportunity.

Congress have considered it to be indispensibly necessary that they have some established funds on which to depend, and among the ways & means of effecting this none appeared more natural, easey, & equitable than imposts & duties on articles imported into the country, provided they are imposed by one rule & take effect at the same time in all the States, and the avails are appropriated for a revenue to the United States. This will prevent any jealousey from arising between the States, all will be subjected to the duties alike, none will pay ultimately any more than they consume of the articles, & each will receive its quota of the avails; wherefore Congress have requested the States to invest them with

a power of laying a duty of five pr. cent ad valorem on all prize goods & other articles imported for the purpose of revenue, to be exercised as soon as all the States, who are in a capacity, shall consent to the same. The reasons which shew the necessity & propriety of this measure are so obvious, we need not trouble your Excellency with a recapitulation of them, for a moment's reflection will evince that this is the only way in which the United States can derive any revenue from imposts & duties. This will be in aid of the taxes & a means of rendering the burden of the war more equal. We shall be happy to find that the measure meets with the approbation & ready concurrence of your Excellency & the General Assembly.

Virginia has ceded her claim of territory lying northwest of the river Ohio with some savings, extracts of which have been transmitted to your Excellency. Maryland has acceded to the confederation; although no official acct[s] are rec[d], yet the fact is unquestionable.

Congress have newly arranged their Executive departments & established the following offices (viz) Minister of Foreign Affairs, Superintendant of Finance, Secretary of War, & Secretary of Marine.

We congratulate your Excellency on the brilliant success of our arms to the southward under B. Gen[l] Morgan; the particulars we inclose in a hand bill and also the King's speech at the opening of his new Parliament. An estimate of the national debt & expenditures is making out, & other matters respecting finance & revenue are under the consideration of Congress, both of which as soon as compleated will be transmitted.

With highest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obed[t], humble servants.

Sam. Huntington.
Oliver Wolcott.
Jesse Root.

P. S. It might be suggested that those States which import most largely will take the benefit of the duties to the prejudice of other States, if the above measure should not be adopted. Pensylvania has already begun to lay duties on imports for her own emolument.

His Excellency Gov^r Trumbull.

Indorsed: Feb^ry 9^th 1781. Delegates in Congress, *de* Duties & Imposts, &^c.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelphia, Feb^y 20^th, 1781.

Please your Excellency, — Last Saturday Cap^t Paul Jones arrived here from France, having been sixty two days on his passage; he has brought some military stores, but no cloathing. By letters from Doct^r Franklin 10,000 suits of cloaths, 15,000 stand of arms, a large quantity of powder & a great quantity of cloths were procured & ready to be shipped as long ago as last August. One vessel with 130 bales of cloth is taken & carried to England, the rest of the cloathing Cap^t Jones says is to come with the second division of the French fleet, which were to sail this month for America. The delay of sending over the cloathing is yet a mistery, but it is put in a train of investigation, & by the help of Cap^t Jones trust it will be effected. Doct^r Franklin writes that M^r Laurence has more liberty & more air than at first, that the British Court sent a copy of the proposed plan of a treaty with the United Provinces, taken with M^r Laurence, to the Stadtholder to be communicated, which was done & the pensioner, magistrates, &c., of Amsterdam approved the plan; upon which M^r York was instructed to present a spirited remonstrance to their highmitynesses requiring that the pensioner & magistrates of Amsterdam should be taken up & punished. What answer was given to

this remonstrance he had not heard. That in order to support our credit in Europe & enable him to pay the bills drawn on him, he has been obliged to engage that these States will furnish provisions to the army & fleet of his most Christian Majesty in America the ensuing campaign, for which we are to receive payment in France to the amount of four hundred thousand dollars.

By the English papers as late as the latter end of Nov^{r} it appears that on the question respecting the prosecution of the war in America in the House of Commons 212 in favour & 130 against. 10,000 troops are to be sent to America early in the spring. 2,000 on the 6th of Nov^{r} were to embark in two or three weeks for Charlestown. By Cap^{t} Jones, the siege of Gibralter is continued, & it was supposed in France that Count de Estang was gone to the West Indies. By letters just rec^{d} from Gov^{r} Jefferson & Gov^{r} Nash a fleet of ships have arrived in Cape Fear river, supposed to be a reinforcement from Europe, probably the one above mentioned. The enemy build their hopes of success on the deranged & supposed exhausted state of our finances; if we disappoint them in this we shall tottally defeat their prospects & induce them to reasonable terms of peace. It behoves us therefore to exert ourselves with spirit at this time, & I think it promises the most happy consequences, which I never so feelingly realized as I seem to at present. By an estimate that has been made of our national debt it doth not exceed 30,000,000 of dollars. The supplies called for are all indispensible for the next campaign. We must stop drawing bills on Europe for the present, the loss is too great to be born by any nation, being as 60 to 92. December Journals are not printed. I write in hast as I did not know of M^{r} Meers' going untill a few hours before he sets out. The President & Gen^{l} Woolcot are well & present their compliments to your Excellency. The souther States are much distressed & exhausted, & much

depends on the vigorous exertions of the eastern States. With the highest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, most humble serv^{t}.

Jesse Root.

P. S. The Pensylvania line will be ordered to the southward.

His Excellency Gov^{r} Trumbull.

Indorsed: 20th Feb^{ry}, 1781. Jesse Root, Esq^{r}, Delegate, *de* Paul Jones, Esq^{r} Cloathing. Amsterdam. Stop drawing bills on Europe. Finances. rec^{d} p M^{r} Meers, 27th inst

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TIMOTHY LARRABE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To Excell^{y} Jonth Trumbull, Esq^{r}, now at Hartford. Pr. fav. Left. Foster.

Windham, 21st Feb^{y}, 1781.

May it please your Exellency, — I beg pardon for introducing myself in this way to your Exellency in the business which I lay before you, but my misfortune rest on this ground that whereas on last week at Norwich I saw M^{r} Andrew Palmer & Robert Stanton of Stonington, jentlemen for whom I have don services in detecting the late illicit trade, who, s^{d} Palmer & Stanton, as well did Stephen Babcock, Esq^{r}, of New London, inform^{d} me that your Excellency was well aquainted with the carecter of s^{d} Palmer & Stanton in this peticular, (viz.), that they had hearetofore been zeilous in discovering the vile practice of one Howell, and that by there means he was detected, altho since made his escape from Providence, in makeing which discoverey they s^{d} Stanton, &c., have expended time & money to considerable amount, this being the case they have further to inform your Excellency that about one month past there hath been discovered in the State of Rhode Island a quantity of cash of s^{d} Howell's, and the same is seized and deposited in the Treasury of

s^d^ State for the use of those that may be deserving, and further that the Assembley of s^d^ State will sit next week, which aefores^d^ matters I undertook to lay before your Exellency in person, then expecting to have an opertunity on last Monday at Lebanon, as not then knowing your Exellency had rem^d^ to Harford, but as I was then disapointed and my business at our adj^d^ court which is now sitting is such that I hope I may excuse me in this way, to pray your Exellency to favour those jentlemen, (viz.), Palmer & Stanton with this recomendation to Gov^r^ Green, (viz.), that they exerted themselves in the afores^d^ matters, and that at least they might be refunded the money, &c., which they have really expended. Pray advice in the premises by the bearer, which will ever be acknowledg^d^ by,

Your Exellency's real friend & hum^l^ serv^t^.

TIM^O^ LARRABE.

GOV^R^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 21^st^ Feb^ry^, 1781. M^r^ Tim^o^ Larrabee, *de* Palmer & Stanton, rec^d^ 22^nd^ inst. Answered, with a letter to Gov^r^ Green in favour of Mess^rs^ Palmer & Stanton, 24^th^ inst.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

SIR, — We are very much indebted to your Excellency for the kind letters she honoured us with dated 30 December, & including 2 others for John Trumbull, Esq^r^. The writer of this had alreaydy the disagreable honour to inform your Excellency, on his return f^r^ England, of the circumstances which accompanied the perfidious taking into custody of that gentleman, & then manifested his hopes of M^r^ Trumbull's being soon released, but we find that the British ministry do act in this as in most other cases, promising one day & delaying again the next; although they have, nor can have, absolutely no proof at all to justify their deportment. One circumstance which

our L. D. N. did not know then yet is that Mr Trumbull had the choize of being confined close prisoner to the Tower or to the place he is now in with liberty to se his friends, &c. ; he choze of course the latter where he is frequently vizited & preserves the serenity & uniformity of his mind without the least alteration, as we had the pleasure of having confirmed to us lately by the author of the letter signed White, which our L. D. made mention of to your Excellency. In this circumstance we thought proper however, before we forwarded any of your Excellency's letters, to ask the orders of your worthy son & to be certain that the one which was to be sent should reach him in safety, so much the more as this can be of no prejudice at all for Mr Trumbull's being in the physical impossibility of coming hither, & though he could come, yet for the present we can assure your Excellency that he could make no use at all of his orders. We esteem it our duty to enlarge now a little more on this head for the kind expressions in your Excellency's letter by which we were to be consulted about it. To be very prolix about the usual manner of conducting loan affairs in this place would be needless, because it requires a personal attendance & knowledge almost of the private characters of those who are most concernd in that trade to form a thorough judgment of it, but upon the whole we must observe that our people in general is very slow in ackuiering such a good opinion of any thing that is proposed for the first time, & that some experience is wanted before the publick general credit is firmly established. All those powers who have now here an unlimited credit almost have in the beginning struggled, some with less, other with more, difficulties ; nay the late Empress Queen had laying here in quietude as much property as would pay capital & 20 years interest of the first loan she attempted upon it, & yet that was not sufficient to engage the people & a 12 month was wanted at least

before all those obligations were dispatched; now she may raise upon simple credit as much as she pleased.

If thus we should offer for a beginning many loans for the publick & private States of America it would be ruining absolutely its credit, which is to be managed as a tender girl & as wel as the political body of America (according to D^r^ Franklin's mode of expressing) wil be wanted by every body in a little time, provided she be a little coy in the beginning. Upon that principle his Excellency J^no^ Adams opened now at our bank a loan for the thirteen States *in solidum* only for one million; we can not yet say any thing about its success, as the subscription is only to be opened next Thursday, first of March, though it seems wel received by the publick & we are not without hopes of its succeeding wel, & *very wel* in relation to its being a *first establishment*, but be that as it wil, no doubt but by a proper management it wil serve to establish sooner or later the general credit, & then we flatter ourselves that we shall be able to raise any sums, not only for the publick but also for any private State; that period depending absolutely upon circumstances cannot be fixed. Our endeavours wil not be failing to accelerate it, & we assure your Excellency that it wil be a sincere pleasure to us if we might be serviceable in procuring a speedy & honourable execution of M^r^ J. T. commission, though we hope that she wil be convinced from the above that in the present moment the offering of it would be of no success & hurt effectually the common cause. We wil take the liberty, as long we do not enjoy the pleasure of possessing here the worthy friend above mentioned, to inform your Excellency successively of the progress of this business & our prospects about it, advising her at the same time about the health & situation of your Excellency's worthy son; conceiving by our own feelings how agreable such tidings must be to both, & therefore we think that we cannot enough re-

peat that the B^{sh} Ministry can not touch a hair of his head, & that he should certainly have been released in the coarse of 8 days, had it not been for the suspension of the habeas corpus act; the sensible people of London being themselves much irritated against Ministry for his detention, which they look upon even as militating against their own rights.

The political situation of Europe is just now in a crisis which probably wil be decided in a month's time & may be sooner; we know that Sweeden is entirely disposed to enter into our quarrel & dayly expect from Russia the answer to the petitions formed in pursuance of the 6th, 7th, & 8th article of the treayty of the armed neutrality, of which no doubt your Excellency has a copey before this; Prussia is said to be meditating peace; meanwhile they pursue in England with condemning our vessels according Act of Parliament lately passed for it, being however a publication issued for the release of those that were taken & given free before the declaration of warr. Though we might have more if proper measures had been taken in time, yet it is supposed that in the month of May we shall have a squadron of 30 sail about ready for sea, & adding to that the auxiliar vessels which we hope to get f^{m} the north (besides the seven stipulated by the armed neutrality) it wil be, we think, a sufficient force to keep England in awe on this side the channel. May that haughty ennemie be soon reduced to accept of terms for peace & that blessing be restored to human kind.

The worthy Baron Van der Capellen was here a little while ago & very well; his affairs, we believe, are pretty much in the same situation yet.

We cannot end without repeating our wishes that we soon may be able to give some proofs to M^{r} Trumbull, Jun^{r}, of those sentiments his own character & our esteem for your Excellency vindicate in his favour, which we

beg your Excell^{y} to look upon, not as vain professions, but as the true meaning of our hearts.

We have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Sir, your Excellency's
Most obedient & very humble servants.
JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON.

AMSTERDAM, 26 Feb^{y}, 1781.

P. S. We have the tiding of Russia's accession & expect Thursday the manifesto of our States, which wil send then, forwarding this for fear it might come to late.

His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq^{r},
Governor of the State of Connecticut.

Indorsed: 26th Feb^{y}, 1781. Mess^{rs} de Newfville & Son, *de* John Trumbull, Loan, Intelligence, &c. rec^{d} July seq.

SAMUEL ELIOT, JR.,* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(*Publick service*) *His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq. in Hartford.* (*P Post*)

BOSTON, 13 March, 1781.

HON^{D} SIR, — In compliance with your request I made enquiry after three tons lead for the use of the State, an article the scarcest and dearest among us; however, by going down to Salem & Beverly, I have collected rather more than two tons, which are now ready to be sent forward to your order, — the remainder I have a prospect of procuring in a few days, perhaps by the time the teams arrive in town, which with the other I shall charge to the State's account current, as I shall shortly be in cash, by obligating Capt Bradford to settle his account, agreable to the new law of this State.

I remain, with the greatest respect,
Your dutifull and obedient hum^{l} servt.
SAM. ELIOT, JUN.

* For notice of Samuel Eliot, Jr., see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll. vol. ii. p. 53 *n*. — EDS.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, March 16, 1781.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — M^r^ Brown arrived here day before yesterday, & we were honoured with your two letters with their enclosures. The act of Assembly vesting Congress with the power of levying duties on imports for so limmitted a period as three years after the end of the war, I fear, will in a great measure defeat the important ends proposed.

Our debt is very considerable now and will be annually increased while the war lasts; can it be supposed that those duties with the other aids the States will be able to give will be sufficient to discharge the national debt within that period?

Besides Congress have no resources for supplies or funds on which to obtain a credit but from the States, and can the States furnish us with either in so easy & equitable a way as by duties & imposts? It would be easy to borrow money at home or abroad were we possessed of funds commensurate to the loans, or even to the interest of the sums we need. At present we are obliged to draw bills of exchange on our Minister at the Court of France at a great risque & sell them at a great loss.

Congress in a Committee of the whole have agreed to report that an estimate of the sums wanted for the current year, beyond those allready called for, be transmitted to the States, & that they be called upon for 6,000,000 of dollars to be paid in specie or the new Continental bills in quarterly payments. I think that the old Continental bills should be called in or exchanged at their current value, & that the new bills should issue equal to specie. In this case neither the public or individuals can suffer & there is nothing in the resolves of Congress that contradicts this. The Committee of the whole have

likewise agreed to report to recommend to the States to amend their laws making paper bills a tender otherways than ad valorem.

I inclose some extracts from Gov^{r} Jefferson's letter, which contains the substance of the intelligence from the southward.

I must leave Congress by the middle of April. Gen^{l} Woolcot designs to leave it sooner, & M^{r} Huntington is determined to go home about the last of April. Some gentlemen must come on or the State will be without a representation in Congress.

March 17th: The resolutions mentioned to have been agreed in Comm^{ttee} are now passed in Congress & will be forwarded by Brown.

M^{r} Rob^{t} Morriss is elected Superintendant of Finance, Gen^{l} M^{c}Dougal, Secretary of Marine; both have given their answer, but state terms which Congress have not yet decided upon. Exchange between the old Continental & specie is 130 for 1. It seems pretty well confirmed that the British only cut out the American vessels at S^{t} Eustacia.

With sentiments of the highest respect,

Your most obed^{t}, humble serv^{t}.

JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 16th & 17th March, 1781. Jesse Root, Esq^{r}, *de* Duties & Imposts, demands of Congress, Gov^{r} Jefferson's Letter, rec^{d} 27th ins^{t}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL ELIOT, JR.*

HARTFORD, 24th March, 1781.

SIR, — After mine by the last post, I received yours of the 13th ins^{t}. It is thought best that the lead be carried by land to Providence, there to be delivered to Mess^{rs}

* Governor Trumbull's letter is copied at the foot of Mr. Eliot's letter to which it is the answer. — EDS.

Clark and Nightingale, merchants, informing & desiring them by a letter from you to ship the same by some vessel coming into Connecticut River, to Hartford, to be delivered to the Com^tee^ of Pay-Table, to agree for the freight, and certify the same, and they will order payment.

I ask the favour of you to procure teams to bring the same to Providence. I conclude there are empty teams frequently returning from Boston to that place; if not please to hire sufficient to bring the three tons if obtained, or what you have. Please to inform me of any intelligence you may have concerning my son in London.

I am, with esteem and consideration,

Sir, your obedient, hble. servant.

J : T——LL.

Sam^l^ Eliot, Jun^r^, Esq^re^.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelp^a^, 24^th^ March, 1781.

Sir, — I have been honoured with your Excellency's letter of the 7^th^ instant, with the Constitution or Articles of Goverment of Connecticut in 1638. The renewed Charter of Charles the 2^d^ has also been rec^d^. Before these came to hand it became necessary to print the Constitution of our State according to the Act of Congress. As I had a general knowledge that the Charter of Charles the 2^d^ was no more than a confirmation of the goverment established by our ancestors, with some additions and improvements, and that the original form of goverment would not exhibit a full idea of our present Constitution, and the Charter of Charles the 2^d^ would be improper to be published, and that the principles of our goverment were in a great measure founded upon certain fundamental laws, I had no apprehension that the real Constitution of the State could be otherwise given to the publick than by an account of the leading and main

principles upon which the goverment operated. And having found an account of the Constitution of our State printed in 1779 with tolerable judgment and accuracy, I have, upon the advice of the President of Congress, agreed to publish this account with some alterations, which I think will give a good general veiw of the principles of our goverment as now existing, without entering into a detail of its origin or derivation, which would be rather perhaps a matter of amusement than useful information or productive of real benefit. I shall be happy if what I have done shall meet with the approbation of your Excellency and the State.

Your Excellency will receive from the President a recommendation of Congress to the State to revise and amend their late law vesting the United States with power to collect certain dutys, so as that it shall comport with the former recommendation of Congress on this head. The reasons for this recommendation are clearly stated in the Act of Congress. The non complyance of the State in the manner recommended gave some surprize, as Congress had been full in the opinion, not only with regard to the necessity but the justice and utility of the measure, but supposed that our State would have a clear interest in supporting it, as their consumption of foreign articles much exceeded their imports, and that the dutys, if they were not collected for a general benefit, would (as they had in this State began to be) levied for a local advantage, which would operate most unjustly, as the consumers must pay the tax, and consequently if they lived in a different State would be charged with taxes for local and partial purposes for which they could not derive the least benefit, and would notwithstanding the payment of these taxes be charged with their full quota of debt to the United States. That this was a circumstance which when well understood by the States would produce severe altercations, if not timely prevented. It

is true the Act of Congress does not propose that the States should have the exclusive right to regulate this affair, which perhaps it might have been well if it had provided for. But probably no State will enhance the duty for themselves. It was observed likewise that the Convention who met at Hartford had recommended the measure, and that Connecticut had commissioners in that Convention, and that the State had not signified their disapprobation of what had been done by them. The Assembly of this State are now sitting; it is said that they will adopt the measure, which, so farr as I have heard, is well approved of in this place.

Your Excellency will likewise receive a recommendation that the States collect, in quarterly payments, six millions of dollars in specie or the new emission, beginning the first of June. I shall make no other observation upon this measure than that it will be obvious that the portion assigned to Connecticut is too high compared with Massachusetts and some other States. In this Congress have governed themselves by former precedents, except by lessening the quotas of N. York and N. Carolina, and placing this deficiency proportionably on the other States. In this place I will observe to your Excellency that we have but the least reason to expect money from abroad. This has been so clearly communicated that we must depend upon it.

The Commissary Gen[l] of Purchases complains that by reason of the scanty supplys of fresh provisions the army are fed with that which is salted, in a great measure. This circumstance will be severely felt the next summer unless rectified, as we are officially acquainted that a cooperation against the enemy is designed. The Commissary also says that there is a most unreasonable deficiency between the beeff charged the publick and what is delivered to the army. This accusation is general.

The rate of exchange here is 130 dollars old money

for one in specie. This occasions vast quantitys to be sent on to the eastward; and indeed the people from thence are here buying the old money, as the exchange is so much lower there than here. I mention this circumstance, as I suppose that a depretiation at the eastward may be expected soon to take place. This old money is continually undulating from one part of the continent to the other, and productive of all the mischief which can attend a fluctuating medium. But I will make no observations, but state facts upon which your Excellency is the best able to judge with regard to what measures may be the most proper to be adopted.

We have no news from N. Carolina but what your Excellency will see in the papers. There is an acc°, which is probably true, that the two fleets from the eastward had an ingagment on the 16 off the Capes of Virginia. The Cap[t] of the brig who brings this intelligence left the fleets in the action; he says that the French were at the windward, that but one of the English ships, supposed to be the Admiral's, had engaged, that as she was attacked by three or four French ships she was drove out of the line. We must wait to hear the result of this affair.

I wrote to M[r] Ellsworth some time ago that it was necessary for me to return home early in April. He has given me no reason to believe that either he or M[r] Law would be here by that time. I hope that the Assembly have appointed new members in the room of the late M[r] Hosmore and Col. Adams resigned. M[r] Huntington and M[r] Root, I suppose, will tarry here till the latter end of next month, altho M[r] Root talks as if he should return a little earlier, yet I think he will tarry 'till that time.

I am, with the highest esteem and regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

Gov[r] TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 24[th] March, 1781. Oliver Wolcott, Esq[r], *de* Sunday, rec[d] 30[th] inst p Brown.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24th, 1781.

SIR, — England has declared war with the States of Holland, have seised upon S^{t} Eustatia and all the Dutch & American vessels in the harbour, said to be upwards of forty of the latter, — a heavey blow upon the merchants in this city. The Dutch admiral, it is said, was killed; Curasoa, report says, is likewise taken; the English, it seems, like men of desperate fortune, are endeavouring to retreive their circumstances by robery & plunder, which must draw on them the enmity of the whole world.

Thus the unfortunate capture of M^{r} Laurence's papers will probably be productive of the most fortunate events to America; this is marvelous to consider.

We have had no accounts lately from the southward or from the French fleet, and are in hourly expectation of some very interesting intelligence from that quarter. The resolutions of Congress calling for six million of dollars to be paid quarterly, and recommending to the States to amend their laws which make paper money a tender otherways than ad valorem, and appointing the 1st Thursday in May for a fast, will be transmitted to your Excellency by the President. The old Continental bills continue to depreciate, nor do I think it at all probable that any of the States will get their quota out of circulation by the time prescribed. I need not repeat to your Excellency the necessity I am under to return home by the middle of next month, & that the State will be without a representation unless I am relieved. I have enclosed the December Journals & some newspapers, and am, with the highest esteem & respect, your

Excellency's most obed^{t}, humble serv^{t}.

JESSE ROOT.

P. S. The Minister of France has informed that the 2nd division will arrive early this spring, & wishes us to be ready to coopperate with them. This day a vessel arrived in the river, the Captn says that he sailed with the French fleet from N.port, that on the 12th the fleet was parted in a fog, that the Admiral with 4 ships came too off Cape Charles; on the 16th the rest of the fleet joined him, that in about 2 hours after the British fleet hove in sight, the wind at N. E., the French to the windward; each fleet drew up in line & came to action, which lasted 45 minutes, when one of the British ships was drove from the line. Immediately both fleets stood to sea in the same position with regard to each other, the French having the wind. The officers of the Convention troops are ordered to Simsbury, in Connecticut, or such place as your Excellency & Council shall order. I am informed there is about 40 in number & will be sent on directly.

His Excellency the Govr.

Indorsed: 24th March, 1781. Jesse Root, Esqr, *de* British declaration *vs* Dutch. Mr Laurens's papers. Call for 6,000,000 dollars. Fast. Old Continentals B's. His return, recd p Brown, 30th Mar. seq.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, 1781.

SIR, — I have been honored with your Excellency's two letters of the 8th instant, with the several papers to which they refer. The limitation of the Act impowering Congress to levy a duty, &c., to three years after the expiration of the present war, doth not comport with the resolution of Congress or answer the design of it.

The proceedings of Congress relative to this subject, as also the several other despatches contained in your Excellency's letters, will be forwarded immediately after they are completed.

We have just received an account by the captain of

a merchant vessel arrived in this river, that the French & Brittish fleets that lately left Newport & Gardner's Bay fell in with each other a little to the southward of Cape Henry on the 16th instant, when an action commenced between the van of the two fleets which lasted forty five minutes. The Captain reports that he saw one of the Brittish drove out of the line, after which the firing ceased, and both fleets were manœuvering, the French being to windward, when he left them, so that we are left in anxious doubt as to the final event of their meeting.

We have no intelligence from General Greene or the southern army later than the 2d instant. The delay of intelligence from him is construed rather favorable, though it must be supposed affairs in that quarter are in a critical situation. Arnold & his party lie still at Portsmouth; should the French fleet so far succeed as to be able to enter the Chesapeake, & maintain their intended station at that place, it must give a very favorable turn to the ensuing campaign.

Before this comes to hand your Excellency will probably have heard of the British manifesto & their violent attack upon the Dutch, their shipping & property, which must produce some important change of affairs in Europe.

I am once more earnestly to request that a delegate may be sent to relieve me as soon as possible. Genl Woolcot & Col. Root both expect to leave Congress in the course of a few weeks, when the State will be unrepresented, & I cannot think of enduring the burden & confinement of my present situation another summer.

I have the honor to be,

with every sentiment of esteem & respect,

your Excellency's most obedient servant.

Sam. Huntington.

His Excellʸ Governor Trumbull.

Indorsed: 24th March, 1781. President Huntington *de* my Letters. Intelligence, recd p Brown, 30th instᵗ vespere.

RICHARD PETERS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On the Service of the United States. His Excellency Gov^r Trumbull, Lebanon, Connecticut. (War Office.)

War Office, March 26, 1781.

Sir, — The Board agreeable to the sense of Congress, who referred the matter to us to take order, have given directions for the British officers of the Convention troops to be separated from the non com^d officers & privates & sent to Simsbury, in your State, where (or in such other part of the State as your Excellency & the Hon. Council shall deem most convenient) they are to remain on parole. Their number about fifty. We have given this early notice that you may be pleased to take measures for their being provided with quarters, & that you may also be pleased to appoint an officer to superintend the prisoners. This measure was absolutely necessary from present circumstances, & we hope for the concurrence of your Excellency & the Honble. Council in carrying it into effect.

We have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
your very obed. servants.
Richard Peters,
By order.

His Excellency Gov^r Trumbull.

Indorsed: 26^th^ March, 1781. M^r^ Ric. Peters, War Office, *de* Convention Officers, Prisoners. rec^d^ 9^th^ April *seq.*

GEORGE CLINTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Albany, March 30^th^, 1781.

Sir, — It having pleased the Divine Wisdom to dispense different blessings upon the American States in point of situation, soil and produce, it is indispensibly

necessary, especially for those more northern ones, that the most perfect unanimity and the warmest disposition to afford each other mutual aid should constantly prevail. Wishing for this unanimity and feeling our hearts impressed with a sincere inclination to afford all the aid in our power to every sister State, we cannot hesitate to request it from them, much less can we refrain from affording them such information as will in some measure advise them of our distresses. To this end we enclose your Excellency a copy of a letter written by this Legislature to Congress. It holds up an unexagerated picture of the situation of this State. Could we do such injustice to your feelings as to suppose that you would behold it unmoved, we would speak to your interests and endeavor to demonstrate the importance of this State in the general scale, and the calamities which threaten to overwhelm our neighbors, to whom we evidently serve as a frontier against the incursions of the Indians and their more savage allies. Hitherto you have beheld at a distance the smoke of our houses and barns, you have heard from afar the expiring groans of murdered husbandmen, the heart piercing shrieks of their miserable wives and mothers and the cries of infants expiring on the mangled bodies of their parents. Winter which is the season of rest with others has only added to our calamities; naked and houseless wanderers are daily flying from the places of their abode to seek shelter and a precarious subsistence elsewhere; others are slaughtered before they can form the resolution to quit their habitations; and almost every dispatch we receive from the frontiers is written in the blood of friends and fellow citizens. We alone stand between you and the scenes of horror and misery which we daily witness and which are beyond the powers of description. Bending under the weight of such accumulated evils, it is a duty we owe ourselves and you to communicate them. Wore down by continued exer-

tions we see with pain States, happily blessed with an ample store, negligent in furnishing their quota, and an ill fed army drawing scanty supplies of flour from others which by various events are rendered incapable of affording it. We urge not this to avoid the payment of what was demanded of us. You will see by the inclosed letter to what disagreable expedients we have been driven to support the army; but dismembered and harrassed as we are, we are determined to strain every nerve to comply, as far as in us lies, with the recent call of Congress for supplies. The requisition for beef on this State was beyond its ability in this article, and the quantity furnished by us, together with the loss sustained by the incursions of the enemy, has so entirely exhausted us that little, very little indeed, is left and the frontier garrisons, incompetent as they are to our defence, are on the point of being abandoned for the want of this species of provision, — even the troops lately in this town and Schenectady have been quartered on the inhabitants for a similar reason, and unless States who abound in this article shall instantly determine to afford us relief the army will quit the frontiers of this State, leave us at the mercy of a vindictive enemy, expose you to the evils we experience and, without the particular interposition of Heaven, must, notwithstanding our favorable prospects abroad, effect the ruin of the glorious cause in which you have expended so much blood and treasure. But, Sir, this is not the only difficulty we experience, the extensive frontiers we have to defend puts it beyond our power to raise an adequate body of troops for their protection, altho' we have in this session of the Legislature passed an Act to levy every twentieth man of sixteen years of age and upwards within this State and, as an auxiliary to it, another (copy whereof we enclose) offering a bounty of land to the officers, non commissioned officers and privates who will engage to serve for three

years in two battalions on the continental establishment, exclusive of compleating our line in the continental army, but we cannot hope to compleat these battalions unless our sister States shall extend their aid on this occasion. Let us then intreat you not only to assist us, to compleat your quota of supplies in which we have had the pleasure to be informed you are already far advanced, but to impress your representatives at Congress with the necessity of informing themselves accurately of what has been done in this business of supplies by each State for this and the preceeding campaign.

Whilst the former part of this letter was under consideration his Excellency our Governor laid before us a letter from Brigadier Gen^{l} James Clinton, copy whereof we have the honor to enclose. Without money in our Treasury, without beef in our State, we can only lament the evils which must inevitably overwhelm the frontiers should the troops abandon the posts they now occupy, without the power of affording relief.

We are, with the highest respect & esteem,
Your Excellency's most obed^{t} servants.
Signed on behalf & at the request of the Legislature.
GEO : CLINTON.

His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esquire,
Governor of the State of Connecticut.

Indorsed : 30th March, 1781. His Excell^{y} Gov^{r} Clinton, enclosing N. York Address to Congress. Act for rais^{g} two Regiments. rec^{d} 29th April seq.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, April 30, 1781.

SIR, — By the latest advices from Spain the affairs of America have a favorable aspect at the Court of Madrid, tho' M^{r} Cumberland was still permitted to be there under the ostensible pretext of obtaining the salubrious air for

the health of some of his family; and, among other circumstances, what convinces me that Spain consider these United States of too much importance to be abandoned by any proposals the British Court can make, or intrigues they may practice, is, that we have received *certain* intelligence that the Spanish armament from the Havannah have *actually invested* Pensacola with a force sufficient to promise success, according to the probable course of human events.

By every account from the southward we have further confirmation of the severe sufferings of the British army in the battle near Guilford Court House. General O'Harra, it is said, is dead of the wounds received in that action.

By late advices from Holland we are assured the Dutch have sent a courier to the Court of Petersburgh to inform them of the hostile proceedings of Great Brittain in consequence of the States General acceding to the treaty of neutrality, and to request the stipulated succours, and this day a vessel under the flag of the United Provinces arrived in this port, but I have not yet received any intelligence from her.

I hope, before this, some delegates from Connecticut are on the way to Congress, as I am once more left alone from the State, and shall not be able to attend any considerable time longer myself.

I have the honor to be, with perfect respect, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 30th April, 1781. Prest Huntington. Private, *de* Sundry, dd me p Mr S. Adams, May 13th, 1781, enclosed, Letters from L. de Newfville, son of Jno, *de* Colo Jno Trumbull's confinement in Londo.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excell^{cy} Jon^{n} Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Gov^{r} of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. p the Gates, Capt^{n} Newman.

Sir, — We did ourselves the honour to address your Exellency some while ago and to advise her that before we sent over any letters to your worthy son our L. de had wroted to him; in consequence he received an answer by a mutual friend, desiring him to stop all letters untill further orders, because, every method of getting his liberty having been fruitless, he now was consulting about another which should be, we suppose, to bring on his trial. Three very famous lawyers were consulted and then appeared then of opinion that it could be done very safely, no new accusation having been brought in against him; the greatest persecutor seems to be Thompson, the Secretary to L^{d} G^{o} Germain, for he declared that not a letter should reach that minister from M^{r} Trumbull; so the refugees appear in general, except M^{r} Delancy who had given proofs of a better disposition.

We long now to know the sence of that plan, but as by the warr our own communication with England is much embarrassed we cannot get so particular account as our feelings for that friend would wish for. We ordered our correspondents to advance him the money he might be in need for, & as his appartment in prison is as comfortable after the loss of liberty we must make ourselves so farr easy. We still think that we may assure your Exellency they dare not touch a hair of his head. We think it our duty to convey to your Exellency at the same time the first trial of M^{r} Trumbull's art, reduced in print, which he did merely from remembrance, without any other aid, but a bad print they had in London.

M^r^ Van de Cap^n^ affair seems intirely terminated to his disadvantage, and we should suppose that he is giving it up, however his sentiment in reguard to America become more generally adopted, any body in our provinces that is not influenced has now England in horror, and thinks that a close connection with America would be the interest of this Republicq whilst his heart makes him wish for it. We hope to see it soon concluded upon, but in general things go here very slow & perhaps there are yet people among us who, consulting more private than publicq advantage, do not concurr with all their hearts to those salutary measures.

Publicq credit, we suppose, will much depend upon them. We were allmost sure of having his Exellency's M^r^ Adam's loan compleated when the tiding came of S^t^ Eustatia being taken, when the subscriptions were erased, & thus we must patiently wait for better events from the knowledge of those whom we call money lenders; the measures of their H. H. M. M. will contribue towards it more than any thing else. It would not be prudent, and your Exellency would judge so if on the spot, to offer in those circumstances any loans for private States, yet the time will come, we hope, when we shall procure to every one as much as may be wanted. We refflect indeed with grief that this cannot fill the present wants for supplies of clothing, &c. It is not unlike therefore, we think, that while matters be thus circumstanced one State or other might judge proper to sent out a couple of ships on publicq account, either directly to this place or firstly to the West Indias and then here, as from the nature of the Connecticut commodities we think should be the best for that State, & which transaction might be attended with a great advantage for the State.

If we were employed in the business, we propose to have a publicq sale of such & such goods, adding the name of the vessells & the State on whose account they should

be, which we found to have much influence on the mind of the aforesaid money lenders & if not instantly it may be in use of time.

We thought it our duty to present this plan to your Excellency's consideration, assuring her that nothing will give us more satisfaction than to see that our attachment for America may succeed one way or other to her advantage; that your Exellency should be a better judge, we join a note of the prices of the sundry articles that we suppose to be of the greatest want & likewise of those commodities the importation of which we are recommending. We beg leave to conclude with our wishes for a speedy & glorious restorration of the blessings of peace, & the assurances of the high esteem & respect with which we have the honour to be,

Your Exellency's most obed., humb. servᵗˢ.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON.

AMSTERDAM, 1st May, 1781.

To His Exellʸ JONᴺ TRUMBULL, Esqʳ,
Governor of the State of Connecticut.

Indorsed: 1st May, 1781. Messʳˢ Jnº de Neufville & Son, *de* Loan, recᵈ 1st Octº seq.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO MESHECH WEARE.

LEBANON, 4th May, 1781.

SIR, — I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Febʸ last with its attendant communication, & am to thank you therefor. I have also received yours of the 10th April. A reciprocal communication of the principal public acts of the States I am persuaded may be of mutual benefit, & hope to have the honor to send you ours in short time. Comissioners from this State, Rhode Island, & Massachusetts met at Providence, but not formᵍ a majority of the members expected proceeded to no business. I fear what effect this neglect

may have upon any future similar occasion, when if the States do not attend to their appointments the interests of the States may receive essential injury for want of their combined efforts & united consultations.

I take the liberty to inclose to you copy of a charter grant of a township of land lying in the upper part of your State, in which a number of people in my neighbourhood are interested. The operations of the present contest has prevented that attention to the settlement that would probably otherwise have taken place. I will be obliged if you will be pleased to inform whether any regulations of your State have passed respect^{g} such grants & what, — whether their are any forfeitures incurred, or what is necessary to secure the interest to the proprietors. I have been told that your late Gov^{r} Wentworth carried off your records; if so it will probably be necessary to have the original presented for record. The inclosed is an exact copy. Any information respect^{g} this matter will be very gratefully received.

I am, with much respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} serv^{t}.

President Weare. N. Hampshire. J. T——LL.

ADDRESS TO THE FREEMEN AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT.

Gentlemen of the Honorable General Assembly — and

Gentlemen, Freemen of this Commonwealth, or State, which hath been, is, and ought to be, free and independant.

This is the anniversary for the election of rulers from *y*ourselves, was ever joyful to *y*our predecessors, and is joyful to us at this day, in the midst of distresses, perplexities, and fears, in defence and for the security of this and every other *y*our inestimable liberties and privileges in Church and State.

*Y*our wise and venerable predecessors laid the foundation of civil government as early as the 14th day of January, 1638, they formed *y*our excellent constitution by compact and articles of government at that time solemnly ratified by the body of the people, which stands entered in the beginning of *y*our first book of public records. This is the happy basis and solid foundation on which we *you* stand. From authority thus settled and established this commonwealth exercised independant government twenty-four years in a decent and orderly manner; yet they, wisely considering the dangers their low and smal condition exposed them unto from encroaching and invidious enemies, applied to the land from whence they came, to the crowned head of England, for a renewal of their original charter formed by themselves, and obtained ample establishment thereof accordingly, differing only in some circumstantials, but nothing essential, save the promise of protection on the part of the King, and the promise of allegiance, and yielding and paying the fifth part of all the ore of gold and silver which should be here gotten, had, or obtained, in lieu of all duties, services, and demands whatsoever on our part.

*Y*our constitution thus began, made, and established, is one of the best among our sister States. You have never failed of an anniversary of this sort from that early period of this State to this day, except in that notable period called the revolution for some few years. Although the present King, the successor to the British crown, hath cast us *you* out of his protection, and levied an unnatural war against us *you*, whereby all allegiance to the British crown is dissolved, and *y*our political connection therewith at an end. Yet *y*our civil constitution remains the same, equally firm and good as at the first.

I do most sincerely congratulate you on the happy civil constitution with which a holy and wise Providence hath been pleased to bless us *you*.

In all well ordered governments, virtue is the object, the good and happiness of the people, the end. Vice is contrary to both; yea, 'tis worse; it is folly and wretchedness. Luxury, avarice, injustice, and falsehood are mean, irrational, injurious, and degrading. Let us banish them from our bosoms, and plant in their room meakness, modesty, liberality, generosity, justice, fidelity, and truth, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, look with faith to the supream alwise director of all events to defend and to secure to us *you* the full and free enjoyment of quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. Thus *y*our independance will be safe and happy to us *you* and *y*our successors. Let us Exert *y*ourselves to the utmost, use the means in *y*our power without fear or murmur, although the burdens of the present contest may seem heavy, yet let them not be grievous. Consider the excellent greatness of the good and happiness in view, and the misery and contempt that will otherwise befall us *you*.

I gratefully acknowledge your candour towards me. An all directing Providence hath disposed your minds once more to make choice of me, weak and unworthy as I am, to the chief seat of government. Relying on divine assistance and guidance, asking your prayers for me in this arduous work, I do accept the trust.

Let us Be strong and of good courage. The Lord direct *y*our counsels, and bless us *you* in the full and happy enjoyment of this good land, and *y*our happy constitution. *Farewell.*

Indorsed: 10 May, 1781. Speech for the Freemen. Afterwards delivered to the Assembly, *mutatis mutandis*, before taking the Oath.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelphia, May 14, 1781.

Sir, — My official despatches to your Excellency which accompany this will shew the alarming situation of the

army and posts to the northward on account of provisions. I have long since been convinced that the present method of supplying the army with provisions by requisitions on the several States, a method dictated merely by necessity, is & will be attended with great difficulties & embarrassments, yet Congress have no other means in their power at present to obtain the necessary supplies, and must depend upon the States to furnish them agreeable to their requisitions as the only means to keep the army together.

Congress in the mean time are endeavoring to devise other means, if possible more eligible to feed the army, to be put in practice as soon as possible, but without money nothing can be done. The delegates from Connecticutt who lately left Congress will be able to represent the distressing situation of public affairs from the state of our finances, yet at the same time from all accounts we can collect there are plentiful resources in the country.

By our last intelligence from the southward General Greene with his troops were before Cambden. That post is fortified with strong redoubts, it is said, but no regular fort. The enemy about seven hundred. Whether General Greene will be able to reduce the post time will discover. It is to be feared he hath not heavy artillery sufficient, and at any rate he will not think it prudent to continue a long siege in that climate at this season.

I have the honor to be,

with very great esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient

& most humble servant.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 14th May, 1781. President Huntington, *de* distress for provisions in the army. Gen^{l} Green before Camden, rec^{d} p Brown, 24th inst.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford or Lebanon.

New Windsor, 13th June, 1781.

Hon^d^ Sir, — I arrived at this place last Thirsday having a pleasant journey, and am in usual state of health. We have very authentic (tho not official) accounts from the southward of the surrender of Pensacola to the arms of his Catholic Majesty under the comand of Don Bernardo Galvez. The Spanish troops, &c., after their success are returned to Havana.

It is reported, & much credited, that Lord Rawdon has evacuated Camden to Gen^l^ Greene, & that Fort Augusta, Ninety Six, &c., the interior posts of S. Carolina & Georgia, & which covered the country for the enemy, are taken or evacuated. These circumstances, if really so, reduce the enemy nearly to the same scituation in which L^d^ Cornwallis began his operations from Charlestown.

Virginia at present is in great distress, tho the warr seems mostly predatory; this, however, is the more distressing to individuals. They call hard for assistance from their northern brethren.

We are look^g^ earnestly for some exertions from the State of Connecticut; we see little or none as yet. Recruits are almost fully at a stand. If by any means we could be roused to serious & vigorous exertions this campaign, I should have the most happy presages of a speedy & honorable termination of the war, but in the slow, half starved & lingering manner in which we operate, I know not how long we may protract it. It is most certainly the most œconomical way in the world to make *one great exertion*, & conclude the matter at once; nothing more, I believe, is now wanting. With most sincere & respectfull attention, I am, Hon^d^ Sir,

Your most dutifull son.

Gov^r^ Trumbull. Jon^a^ Trumbull, Jun^r^.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford. p Express.

New Windsor, 16th June, 1781.

Hon^{D} Sir, — The 24th of last month his Excellency the Comander in Chief, by his circular letter to the several States, made application for their aid in men & supplies in the concerted opperations of the present campaign, requesting to be informed as speedily as possible what exertions he might rely upon from each. We are now arrived at the above date, & to this hour the Gen^{l} has nothing from any one of the States from which he can form a conjecture how far they intend a compliance with his requisitions; this delay is in the first place very mortifying, & gives no happy presage of the spirit & exertions which might be expected from the States on so great an occasion as the one hinted at by his Excellency. We are at a loss to conceive to what causes this delay may be attributed. Is it that the States are so totally exhausted that no further exertions can possibly be made? or are they so embarrassed that they know not which way to turn? or are they so remiss in their attention to the great objects of the war, that this requisition can obtain but a slight or side way consideration, & that at a late hour? or is their confidence in the judgment & economy of the Comander in Chief so far abated, that they cannot be induced to a preparation for any important operations, untill, by a display of every circumstance & expectation, they must thereby have *their* minds impressed with the necessity & expediency of every measure, before they can be induced to act? The two first conjectures I cannot with propriety assign as the reason; the two latter I am ashamed to admit, tho I must confess I have too much reason to fear they are the operative means of this unhappy delay.

Since the comencement of the war, a more favorable opportunity perhaps has never presented in which the enemy might be more essentially injured, than the one to which we look, provided the States could be properly arroused to a due exertion on the occasion; but if they will not, we have only to lament that remissness of spirit which has taken place & threatens to extinguish every noble idea, & may eventually prevent the speedy & happy termination of this long continued & distressing war.

To minds susceptible of impressions from these motives arguments need not be urged; with others they will have no weight; but let those who are the occasion of the failure consult their own hearts & answer to themselves, if they can, for the unhappy consequences. If America will not exert herself in this *favorite hour* (may I say) she deserves not to be free.

A failure in the supply of provisions (especially the beef kind) is much feared. Massachusetts, it seems from the circumstances of their *paper currency*, will be for a time exceedingly defective on that head. This will require a greater supply from the State of Connecticut, & extra supply may be jusly expected from a consideration of their having been so totally defective on the score of fresh beef for a long time since. It will avail nothing to call together a large body of men in the field, & have nothing to feed them with.

I feel myself happy to have an opportunity to confirm to you from authentic letters from Gen^{l} Greene the accounts of his successes southward which I gave you the other day as reports. Cambden was evacuated by L^{d} Rawdon on the 10th May, with marks of precipitation, hav^{g} burnt his provisions & the stores of the town with the mill & sundry [*illegible*], the town reduced to little better than a heap [*illegible*]; 58 prisoners of the enemy, with some officers too badly wounded in the action of Cambden to be removed, with 31 men of ours taken in

that battle. Forts Mott, Granby, & Orangeburg are reduced. Ninety Six & Augusta were invested & expected soon to be in our possession. In the posts already reduced about 700 officers & men are made prisoners, with considerable provisions & stores & arms. Lord Rawdon was last at Nelson's Ferry, at which place they held a post, the stores, &c., of which were removing to Charlestown. Gen[ls] Marion & Sumpter watch[s] his motions. I most sinc[er]ely congratulate you, Sir, on these happy successes. The General's letter being of a circular nature & wrote on particular & urgent business, I am desired to insert the southern intelligence in my private scribble. With the most affectionate respects,

I am, hon[d] Sir, your dutifull son.

J. Trumbull, Jun[r].

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Head Quarters, New Windsor, 23[d] June, 1781.

Hon[d] Sir, — The receipt of your favors of the 20[th], which came to hand last night, gave us much satisfaction. The Resolutions of the Assembly of Connecticut, tho long delayed, appear to convey a good degree of spirit at last. Nothing seems now to be wanting but a *vigorous* & *active execution* of apparently well adopted measures.

The calculation of *deficiencies* in our line will fall much short of their real state, — from what circumstances I cannot fully determine, no allowance, I suppose, has been made for the many casualties which have happened since the State have had the returns of their numbers, many discharges, some deaths, & two many desertions have taken place since last fall. I hope the drafts will be punctually & fully inforced. The punctual collection of the beef tax will be a matter of the utmost importance.

I am sorry that no money is yet arrived for our poor

lads in the Connecticut line; they are really in great want, & hardly know how they will take the field without it. Their needy scituation is the more particularly mortifying from a consideration that almost every other State have been particularly attentive to this supply, & their troops are now enjoying the benefits of it. I am sorry Connecticut should be behind on this head.

The idea of your coming this way with your Council is highly relished; it is tho't it may be attended with very happy consequences. Much is expected from Connecticut; I hope she will not disappoint our wishes.

Our last accounts from Gen[l] Greene, tho not official, leave him before Ninety Six on the 28[th] of May, & Gen[l] Pickens before Augusta, — a good prospect of success in obtain[g] both.

Intelligence is so vague & uncertain from Virginia that we know not what to depend on; no very great operations however have taken place, nor are the enemy very active. Gen[l] Wayne before this has joined the Marquiss with the Pensylvanians. With this addition & the Baron Stuben's, with the militia of the State, I hope they will effect a respectable force.

Your most dutifull son.

J. Trumbull, Jun[r].

Indorsed: 23[d] June, 1781. Col[o] Jon[th] Trumbull. Answer to mine of the 20[th], rec[d] 26[th] inst, 11 o'clo., A. M.

WILLIAM HEATH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Roxbury, June 28[th], 1781.

Sir, — The last evening I was honored with yours of the 20[th] instant. I am exceedingly happy in the measures adopted by your Hon[ble] General Assembly in the grants both of men and supplys. They do them honor, and I assure myself the same spirit will prompt them to

carry every of their resolutions into execution. I hope the Commissioners who meet at Providence, will be fortunate enough to establish a good system for forwarding the supplys to the army. I have the pleasure to acquaint your Excellency, that the other three States are much spirited, and, notwithstanding all the embarrassments under which they labor on account of their finances, are determined to make the most vigorous exertions. May Heaven crown them with success.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest respect & esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant.
W. HEATH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

LITCHFIELD, 3 July, 1781.

SIR, — The Order of Council which passed the evening before the G. Assembly rose, to sell the estate of Charles M^cEven, I directed my son when I left Hartford to apply to M^r Payne for a copy of, and advertise the sale in Hartford and N. Haven papers. He writes to me that he has applyed to M^r Payne for a copy of the order, and is informed by him that no such order is entered on the Journals of Council. How this should happen I am not able to say, as most certainly such an order passed, and undoubtedly it would be best that this estate should be sold agreably to that order. But as M^r Payne has omitted making the proper entry it will I suppose be necessary that he receive a farther direction.

The confiscated estate of Colburn Barrel lying in this Town, inventoried at £130, L. money, in July, 1780, has, I am told, been sold by an order of the Council of Safety for the benefit of the Connecticut line. The debts against

this estate, found by commissioners and approved of, amount to £12. 14. 9, L. money, which together with the costs of administration is unpaid. I have lately heard that Colburn Barrel had some estate in Farmington; if so I shall order so much of that estate to be sold as will answer those demands, unless it shall be tho^{t} best to sell the whole of Barrel's estate, paying thereout the debts and charges and the remainder into the Treasury.

A small estate of John Joy confiscated, and apprized in March, 1780, in old money at £174. 3. 0, is insolvent, the State will therefore receive nothing therefrom.

The confiscated estate of Sylvanus Bishop of Litchfield was apprized at £437. 10. 0, good money. There is supposed to be about 106 acres, whereof fifty acres is under a life lease to Jonathan Bishop aged about seventy. I have set off to the wife of Sylvanus during her life 25 acres and one half of the house and one half of the barn; debts allowed against this estate £12. 1. 6. The administrator will receive something for rents. No administration charges have been yet allowed. Probably this estate would not sell better than at present. But if it should be sold, in my opinion it would be best to sell also that which is under the lease at the same time, otherwise there would probably be a loss in the sale.

The confiscated estate lying in Washington containing 38 acres and which belonged to W^{m} Davies was apprized at £72. 0. 0, good money; debts allowed against this estate £20. 9. 6. No administration charges have been yet allowed. W^{m} Davies left a wife and three yong children, for whom no provision has been made. The lands are poor and so circumstanced that their value will not rise. It might probably be well to have this estate sold, and allow the widow out of the sale after the debts and charges are paid one third or half of the money, and order the rest into the Treasury.

There are no other estates confiscated in my district.

I beg leave to submit it as my opinion that as soon as peace shall be established there will be a temporary fall of the price of lands in general, as many people will be in quest of new settlements. I believe that the State will never derive more profit from the confiscated estates which I have mentioned than by having of them all sold at publick vendue, the debts and charges on them paid, and the residue immediately paid into the Treasury. I am, Your Excellency's most obed^{t} servant.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

His Excellency Governour TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 3 July, 1781. Ol. Wolcott, Esq^{r}, *de* confiscate Estates.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, July 3^{d}, 1781.

SIR, — I shall have occasion for more money to enable me to continue here to the expiration of the term for which I was appointed. I was obliged to use a part of the £100 furnished me last May to provide some necessaries for my family and I have occasion for some clothing. Living here is very expensive, board is as high as ever, tho' the prices of provisions have fallen in the market. There was no money in the Treasury to pay for my services in the last circuit, and what was due for my past services in Congress I received a note for, payable after the expiration of the war.

I must entreat your Excellency and the Hon^{ble} Council of Safety to order the Pay Table to draw on the Treasurer to furnish me with the sum of fifty pounds specie at least, (a greater sum would be more acceptable) and send it by Jesse Brown the next time he comes to Philadelphia.

I am, Sir, with very great esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL. ROGER SHERMAN.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Head Quarters near Dobbs Ferry, 9th July, 1781.

Hon^D^ Sir, — You will see from the date of this that we have advanced pretty near to the enemy on York Island; here we shall probably remain to collect our heavy artillery & stores, with the reinforcement of men & supplies expected from the several States, which seem to appear at too great a distance of time.

In our approach to the enemy the other day, some few of our troops (800) had a small skirmish with the enemy, who seemed to be ignorant of the movement we were mak^g^ with our main body. As soon as they made this discovery they cooped themselves within their works, from which, notwithstand^g^ the efforts of Gen^l^ Lincoln to that effect, they could not be induced to meet us. In the skirmish we had about 30 or 40 killed & wounded, — 4 or 5 of the latter have, & probably will, die. The army moved so near to Kingsbridge as under its cover to give Gen^l^ Washington a fine opportunity to reconoitre the position & the works of the enemy, which he did to very good effect. After remain^g^ near them all night we retired to this encampment, which is about 12 miles from them.

Our intelligence from the southward is very favorable, there being a certainty, it seems, of the reduction of the post of Augusta & other posts above & below on that river, & great probability, from various reports, of the fall of Ninety Six.

The Marquis has reduced Cornwallis to a retrograde motion in Virginia, in which State his Lordship has gained almost no real advantage, altho from the rapidity of his movements he has run over a great extent of that large dominion.

The enemy have doubtless received a reinforcement

from Europe which arrived at Charlestown, & are distributed to various places, principally to the former; some few are come to N. York, some gone to Virginia, & some to Augustine, &c., — the whole number perhaps 2000.

A disagreable story gains ground that the Spanish General in the capitulation of Pensacola has suffered the garrison to be sent to N. York; it is not yet ascertained, but I fear it is too true.

We are anxiously expecting men & supplies from the eastward; the season is advancing & will wait for none of *our delays*.

Most dutifully yours, J. Tr.

JOHN TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

N° 3. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon, Connecticut. In the Apollo, Cap^n Skinner. Not to be destroy'd in case of capture.

Triplicate. Amsterdam, July 10th, 1781.

Hon^p Sir, — I have the happiness of putting a period to your anxiety on my account by informing you that I obtain'd an order of the Privy Council for my discharge on the 12th ult°, thro' the intervention of some liberal men, & arriv'd in this place on the 6th ins^t in perfect health.

My confinement was not rigorous and I had the happiness to enjoy my health & spirits thro' the whole, & the few friends I had were permitted to visit me.

I have receiv'd your letters, 1st, 2d, & 3d, of 30th Dec^r & 2d Jan^y, with M^r Eskelens' of same date, & shall answer them at large in another letter. I can only say here that the prospect is by no means promising, & tho' they have waited some time for me, yet there is no time lost. I say no more on this subject or my confinement, as it

is probable this letter may be seen by an enemy & I wish it to be such as humanity should induce any one to send forward. With every sentiment of duty & gratitude

I am, Hon^{d} Sir, your son,

JOHN TRUMBULL.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 10th July, 1781. John Trumbull, Esq^{r}, *de* his release, rec^{d} 26th ins^{t} from M^{r} Colt.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

HEAD QUARTERS NEAR DOBB'S FERRY, 11th July, 1781.

HON^{D} SIR, — I wrote you a few days since, which will go by the same conveyance with this, hav^{g} missed the opportunity I then expected.

Intelligence since writing last gives us the certainty of Gen^{l} Greene having reduced Augusta, with the posts above & below it on that river, also a very great probability that Ninety Six had fallen, which successes again put Gen^{l} Greene into possession of the whole of the States of Georgia & S^{o} Carolina, except Charlestown & Savanna. What reverse of fortune may take place on the L^{d} Rawdon's find^{g} himself reinforced in Charlestown with about 1200 or 1500 troops lately arrived, I cannot tell; but the spirits of those States are greatly raised by Gen^{l} Greene's successes, & that great numbers are join^{g} him, the season also, independant of other circumstances, will be much in his favor. In that quarter Providence seems unexpectedly to relieve our fears.

The Marquiss also has at last got L^{d} Conwallis upon a retrograde motion, which he has pursued about 100 miles, till his Lords^{p} is arrived on a point of land between James & York Rivers, & taken his stand at Williamsburg. The Marquiss does not care to pursue him further, least by help of his water carriage his Lord^{p} should thro' himself

up the river suddenly, & exchange their present positions by placing himself above our troops. In the retreat, the Marquiss by an advanced party fell upon Cornwallis rear, & killed 60 & wounded 100, with the loss only of between 30 & 40 of his own men. A very favorable circumstance is told, — viz^{t}, that in all the circuit that the British army have made in Virginia not 10 persons have joined his Lordship, & that the spirits of the people are reviv^{g} from that stupor & supineness into which they were thrown on the approach of the enemy into their dominion, & that many are their exertions. L^{d} Cornwallis has now almost nothing to show for all the toil of his extensive & circuitous march^{g} but the thinness of his ranks, — the country closing up on his track as he leaves them.

The report I mentioned of an article in the capitulation of Pensacola, is reduced to certainty. Part of the troops having already arrived in N. York, & the remainder expected, — the whole perhaps about 1000 or 1200. An astonishing piece of conduct in the Dons.

We are now anxiously waiting the expected succours from the several States to comence our operations. In hope of receiving them soon, we may probably in short time take a nearer position to the enemy.

With most dutifull respects,

I am, your son, J. T.

Indorsed: 9th, 11th July, 1781. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, intelligence, rec^{d} 13th ins^{t}, P. M., 5 o'clock.

ROGER SHERMAN AND OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelphia, July 12th, 1781.

Sir, — We were honored with your Excellency's letter of the 18th of last month, and are well pleased with the measures taken by the Hon. General Assembly, therein

mentioned. It is the wish of Congress, as well as of the people in general this way, to get rid of paper currency; it greatly embarasses our affairs; it is but little used here in any trade or dealing, and not at all in the market; the prices of many articles of country produce are near as low for hard money [as] they were before the war. The new continental and State bills are not better than five for one specie; the issuing them at that rate, if they are to be redeemed at par, must be a very great loss to the public. We are glad that the State we have the honor to represent has determined to issue no more bills of credit, and that those now outstanding are likely to be soon redeemed in a way that will do justice to the possessors and the public.

M[r] Robert Morris has lately entered on the execution of the office of Superintendant of the Finances, and Congress have ordered that he be furnished with copies of the requisions made to the several States for monies and other supplies, and have put them under his direction, with the advice of the Commander in Chief of the army. Much good is expected from his abilities, and we wish the expectations of the public may be fully answered. No Journals of Congress have been printed since December for want of money to pay the expence. The regulation of the clothing department has been lately altered, and the several States excused from procuring any account of the United States after the first day of September next. We opposed the measure, being of opinion that the army will suffer for want of clothing, if not supplied by the particular States, also that many articles of clothing can be provided by the people easier than they can raise hard money to purchase them. We have the satisfaction to find that General Washington has the same apprehensions with us as to the first particular, which will probably induce Congress to reconsider it.

The State of Massachusetts has applied to Congress for

justice with respect to the old continental bills in that State, whose currency is now at an end; the matter is under the consideration of a Committee.

Col. Hazen is promoted to the rank of Brigadier by brevet.

It is expected that the Emperor of Germany and the Empress of Russia will interpose their mediation for a general pacification among the belligerent powers. A vigorous exertion on our part this campaign may put us in a good situation for a honorable peace. The British forces in America are waxing weaker & weaker, and ours stronger & stronger. 'Tis probable that in Carolina & Georgia the enemy are confined to Charlestown & Savannah, though we have not had certain intelligence that our forces have taken the posts at Ninety Six and Augusta, but believe it is probable. By the best accounts from Virginia the Marquis De la Fayette has a force superior to Cornwallis's, and that the latter is retiring toward Williamsburgh. The vessel that Col. Palfrey sailed in for France is supposed to be lost, and Congress have appointed a M^{r} Barclay of this city, Vice Consul to reside at France in case M^{r} Palfrey does not arrive. They have also appointed a M^{r} Smith of Baltimore, agent for these States at the Havannah who is now there. 'Tis supposed, such an agent may be very serviceable to our people who trade there; much hard cash has been lately brought from thence to this city in a way of trade.

By a letter from M^{r} Jay dated the beginning of March he mentions that he has obtained a loan in Spain of 150,000 dollars. We have no official accounts of any obtained by M^{r} Adams in Holland, tho' the news papers mention that he has obtained one for a considerable sum.

There never was a more fruitful season known here than the present; the weather has been very favourable both for growth, and ingathering. Notwithstanding the

calamities that we suffer, we are not left without witness of the Divine Goodness.

We are, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servants.

ROGER SHERMAN.

OLIV^{R} ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 12th July, 1781. Hon^{ble} Sherman & Elsworth, *de* Sundry, rec^{d} 25th inst p President & Brown.

JOHN TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Duplicate. AMSTERDAM, 13th July, 1781.

HON^{D} SIR, — Tho' at the same time you receive this you will likewise receive letters from the Baron V. D. Capellan & from M^{r} De Neufville, who are much better inform'd in politics than I am, yet I trust it will not be superfluous if I give some idea of what I learn since my arrival here, as well as of the state of affairs in general. The English declaration of war against these States found them in a most unprepared situation: their trade at sea unprotected, their ships of war rotten, their docks very empty of stores, and, what was worse than all, divided among themselves.

The prince is devoted to the English interest, from motives of old attachment, because he expects to marry his daughter to the Prince of Wales, & perhaps because he wishes to follow the steps of his friend in England towards absolute power. The Duke of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, who is Field Marshal of the troops, a man of deep art and abilities, is of the same party, and directs the operations of the Prince Stadtholder. They have many officers in their interest & are followed by all the weak & timid, or wicked & designing men in this country, and have influence sufficient to delay all preparations for war,

all deliberations which tend to counteract their measures, and in effect are the governing party. The city of Amsterdam, on the other hand, is head of the republican party, & warm in favor of war and America, but are hitherto rather overpower'd by the prince's interest. Hence arises that slowness of preparation, that stupor, which at present runs thro' all the movements of this country. Six months have pass'd since the declaration of war, and nothing has yet been attempted on the offensive, tho' the whole eastern coast & convoys of G. Britain are at their mercy. A fleet of 12 or 15 sail are now ready for sea at the Texel & will sail in a few days. I hope they will give us reason to remember the bravery of their ancestors.

The arm'd neutrality, from which so much has been expected, proves at last a ridiculous thing. The Dutch, tho evidently within the treaty, receive & will receive none of the stipulated support. The English fleets go on in their depredations & insolence as uncontrol'd as ever, and the Court of France, who really appear the only active & determin'd power in Europe, have presented a memorial to the Court of Russia, stating that having found the treaty of arm'd neutrality ineffectual to all the purposes declar'd to have been its object, finding the sea as much as ever insulted by the British vessells, and no power benefited by it, unless it be the English, he, the King of France, had thought proper to declare, that he should immediately give orders to his fleets & ships to change their line of conduct towards ships & vessels of the neutral powers, & to govern themselves by the same rules as he should find the English court should follow. We wait for an answer to this.

Much has been said of a mediation for peace, but I have no idea from what I can gather here or in England that there is the least prospect of it; for tho it is become a prevailing opinion in Great Britain that the conquest of

America is a chimera, yet there is very little inclination, even in those who call themselves the friends of America, to accede to the acknowledgement of our independance. There are few who think liberally, & by far the majority will rather push forward, tho' to ruin, than give up their insolent ideas of superiority. The Emperor & Empress of Russia are much talk'd of as mediators, but I consider them all as watching the game for a favorable opportunity of serving themselves, and it is very questionable whether in place of peace, we shall not have a general war in Europe. The Emperor, who is a prince of more abilities than most others, of great activity and an inquisitive spirit, has been lately travelling thro' his new dominions of the Netherlands, where he has made Ostend a free port, and introduc'd several regulations in favor of commerce. He has since been at the Hague & the Texel, & is now in this town. He views every thing, examines every thing, studies every thing, & promises fair to make a great figure on the political stage. The Spaniards are amusing themselves still before Gibraltar. The French, very much to their honor, have seventy one sail of the line fit for service, of which every is at present at sea; an uncommon exertion. The Brest fleet consists of 18 sail & have been out some days. We are wishing they may meet Admiral Darby who is out with 12 or 15 sail. We hear from the West Indies that Mons^{r} D^{e} Grasse has routed the English fleet under S^{r} Sam. Hood, and taken the Island of S^{t} Lucia with all the garrison & several ships; we wait anxiously for a confirmation of it; as, if true, it will divert M^{r} Digby from his destination with 6 sail of the line to America, distract the whole plan of Great Britain. Hyder Ally is going on victoriously in the East Indies, where he is besieging Madrass, or, as other accounts say, he has taken it. The Company's servants, as plunderers commonly do, quarrel with each other to the ruin of the public affairs. They have offerd peace on very humiliat-

ing terms to the Mahrattas, their other enemies, who have spurn'd the proposal, & push on their side with new vigour; at the same time the French fleet is superior in those seas, & the distance so great that all may be ruin'd before any succours can arrive from G^{t} Britain.

In the midst of all this confusion, where fear influences some, views of interest others, & British gold many, it is impossible to foretell the events of a month or a week; in general we may conclude that the affairs of our country were never in a more prosperous state, for the quarrels of Europe will doubtless divert the attention of our enemies from us, and perhaps the theatre of blood may be shifted long before the tragedy shall be ended.

M^{r} Adams is not here at present. I shall see him when he returns. M^{r} Temple came over from England some weeks before me, and is now here. It is my duty to say that the paragraph in the London papers advertising me as an incendiary & sign'd with the initials of his name was a villainous trick of some American refugees to ruin him & me at once. I fear you never rec^{d} a letter which I wrote at that time, enclosing the paragraph & explaining it. This, however, will remove all idea of his being such a wretch, for on the contrary I have every reason to believe that he is an honest friend to his country.

Doct^{r} Price & M^{r} D. Hartley, whom I saw when I left London, desir'd me to present their compliments to you. They & some few others sincerely wish us well, but the number is small.

I am, Hon^{d} Sir,
Your dutifull,
JOHN TRUMBULL.

15th The province of Friesland have just resolv'd that a strict alliance with France is necessary, and that they consent to acknowledge the independance of America &

to receive M^r^ Adams as the ambassador of the United States of America.

Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 13^th^ July, 1781. John Trumbull, Esq^r^, *de* present state, rec^d^ 27^th^ Sept^r^ seq., vespere.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. p Col^o^ Wadsworth.

HEAD QUARTERS, 13^th^ July, 1781.

HON^D^ SIR, — Since writing to you two days ago I have received yours of the 9^th^, accompanying that to the General, which gives us much satisfaction. We are wanting, however, very much to know what forwardness the troops expected from the State are in, both Continental & militia; as we are very anxious to collect our force in order to comence serious operations, which are now dependant only on the exertions of the States.

If consistent with your other circumstances, it is much to be desired that you will come on this way towards the army; if not to the camp, yet within its verge. Many good consequences, I fancy, would attend your journey, especially if you should bring in your retinue a sum of money for our poor suffering Connecticut lads, who are in want beyound your or any other man's conception who has not seen them. Their distresses have so far operated upon their spirits as to render them impatient beyond further sufference; what will be the consequence I am afraid almost to think, unless they are very soon relieved. This impatience is hightened by the reflection that Connecticut is the *only* State who has not provided some pay for their troops, & when they consider that *no* State scarcely in the union have so much ability as theirs, the troops can construe the omission

into no other reason than absolute *neglect*, which galls them beyond expression.

In a few days, I fancy, we shall take a position nearer to our enemy than where we now are & beyond which we can advance no further without our expected aid. In this scituation we shall expect to be supplied, or be obliged to abandon our hopes with shame & disgust. Now is the time for the States to spring every nerve of exertion, or abandon their hopes; the alternative is with them, & agreable to their resolutions will be the issue.

Most dutifully, I am,

Your son. J. T.

Gov. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 13th July, 1781. Colo Jonth Trumbull, *de* mine, the General, Army, want of money, &c. recd 20th instt, P. M.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GEORGE CLINTON.

LEBANON, 20th July, 1781.

SIR, — Your Excellency's letter of 30th June last, with its enclosures, is received. The enemy, convinced that they cannot conquer the country by arms, have meditated and are pursuing a different measure, founded on the old maxim, *divide et impera*. For this end the British ministry have sent large quantities of goods to New York; large parcels of them have been brought along the whole length of Rhode Island, agreeably to a plan systematically laid, to introduce them on the main to various places on our sea coasts, to the care and disposal of inimical, evil, & artful men, fit tools for their turn, to catch hold of the avarice, luxury, pride and vanity of some persons who are designing and others who are unwary. These pernicious tools, with the allurements furnished them, spread the contagion of corruption, falshood, unreasonable jealousies, a cry of intolerable taxes, and artfully seduce

young men to enlist and join the associated loyalists, and they secretly hand out the declaration of General Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot offering pardon, inviting to the acceptance of it. In addition to this they have instituted a board of directors for associated loyalists. Use is made of the artful tools mentioned secretly to encourage & induce unprincipled men to join them. Commissions are by the board of loyalists granted to their seducers to come in small craft to plunder, burn, and destroy all in their power, and to carry into captivity unarmed citizens, or lay them under parole. Some mode of defence is necessary to counteract and defeat these ruinous practices, to prevent this illicit trade and intercourse, and to stop the inroads and incursions of the pretended loyalists.

In this situation commissions have been granted to commanders of armed boats and small vessels, such as are well recommended for fidelity, to cruise in the sound and to go on land to take British goods, which before the operation of this ministerial plan were known to be as scarce on Long Island as in any part of these States, — many of these goods are gewgaws. The instructions given with the commissions forbid plundering or taking any houshold goods, cloathing or other things from the unarmed inhabitants, but confining them to the taking and bringing off British goods and effects only from the island, or in vessels in the sound carrying on the illicit trade, — all that should be taken to be duly libelled and legally condemned before any disposition is made of them, liable to answer all damages in case of any malversation. Bonds with sureties are taken for two thousand pounds lawful silver money, conditioned for a faithful conformity to the commission and instructions.

The first that were granted was to persons from Connecticut River and N. London, to proceed on the cruise & return under the direction and inspection of William

Ledyard, Esq^{r}, L^{t} Col^{o} Command^{t} of the garrisons in the forts of New London and Groton, with directions and authority given him to suspend the commission of any that violated, or he suspected to have violated, his commission and instructions, and to make report thereof to the Governor.

These armed boats disconcerted, and in a considerable degree prevented, the operation of the mentioned plan at the east end of the island; at the west end the same practices were continued untill commissions with like instructions were granted, to proceed from New Haven and to return under direction and inspection of Sam^{l} Bishop, Esq^{r}; from Derby under James Beard, Esq^{r}; and from Norwalk under Thaddeus Betts, Esq^{r}, which disconcerted the plan, altho' it was more easily carried on that way. The clamour of inimical and interested persons against these armed boats and the success these boats have had to stop the progress of the dangerous intercourse and trade with the enemy justifieth the measure, and 'tis wonderful that there hath been no more reason for complaints. Several gentlemen from the island have had a ready hearing before our courts, and received redress and large damages where they were found reasonable. We have been careful to prevent the evils you mention. At the same time persons, however otherwise friendly, when their practices promote the views and nefarious designs of the enemy, they have no right to expect your protection to screen them from the consequences. It is obvious to them and all others that commercial intercourse is attended with the most ruinous consequences. These armed boats and small vessels have done much to defeat and counteract the wicked devices of an enemy who leave nothing unessayed by force, seduction, or fraud to destroy us. We wish to defeat their success in causing divisions and to cultivate union & harmony amongst ourselves and our sister States.

This State hold the Articles of Confederation inviolate; great caution will undoubtedly be used in granting passports. It is found by experience that many under pretence of removing themselves, their families and effects out of the power of the enemy, their chief end is to carry on trade, which, whether they design it or not, will eventually ruin our cause and subjugate the country. Commissions have been heretofore given by this State for armed boats to cruise in the sound, restrained to high water mark, with instructions similar to those given by the Hon^ble^ Congress, giving bond, and liable to restore in damages, as abovementioned. Several of the Long Island refugees were commissioned; for some time they were serviceable for the public good; at length two or three of them were used merely as passage boats, which kept up a dangerous intercourse. Others were suspected of entering on the illicit trade and of carrying provisions to the enemy, altho' this last evil was done more clandestinely; inquiry was made, & those commissions interdicted. This prevented all the good done by any of them, yet it did not stop the same evils clandestinely practised without commissions. These boats are oftentimes a check on each other. It is our opinion that they are necessary, & our desire that they may be regulated in the best manner possible. Enclosed for your observation are copies of several affidavits of one Joshua Hebart shewing the persons & evils practised.

I am, with esteem and consideration, Sir,

Your most obedient and very hble. servant.

JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Gov^r^ CLINTON.

Indorsed: No. 18. 20^th^ July, 1781. To Gov^r^ Clinton. *De* armed boats.

ROBERT MORRIS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, 25th July, 1781.

SIR, — I had the honor to write you the 16th inst, enclosing a certified copy of the acc° of your State as it stands in the Treasury Books of the United States. I now pray leave to recall your attention to it. It gives me very great pain to learn that there is a pernicious idea prevalent among some of the States that their acc°s are not to be adjusted with the continent, such an idea cannot fail to spread a listless languor over all our operations. To suppose this expensive war can be carryed on without joint & strenuous efforts is beneath the wisdom of those who are called to the high offices of legislation. Those who inculcate maxims which tend to relax these efforts, most certainly injure the comon cause whatever may be the motives which inspire their conduct. If once an opinion is admitted that those States who do least & charge most will derive the greatest benefit & endure the smallest evils, your Excellency must perceive that shameless inactivity must take place of that noble emulation which ought to pervade & animate the whole union. It is my particular duty, Sir, while I remind my fellow citizens of those tasks which it is incumbent on them to perform, to remove if I can every impediment which lies in the way or which may have been raised by disaffection, self interest, or mistake. I take therefore this early opportunity to assure you that all the acc°s of the United

* Robert Morris, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Liverpool, England, Jan. 20, 1734, came to this country when he was about thirteen years old, and soon afterward began his training for a mercantile life. He was sent to the Continental Congress in 1775, and was twice re-elected. In February, 1781, he was elected Superintendent of Finance, which office he held for two years, rendering very important services. On the adoption of the Constitution he was elected a Senator from Pennsylvania, and served six years. After retiring from public life he engaged largely in the East India and China trade, but met with such heavy losses that he spent several years in a poor debtor's cell. He died in Philadelphia May 8, 1806. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iv. pp. 416, 417. — EDS.

States shall be speedily liquidated if I can possibly effect it, & my efforts for that purpose shall be unceasing. I make this assurance in the most solemn manner, & I entreat the consequences of a contrary assertion may be most seriously weighed & considered before it is made or beleived. These acc^{os} naturally divide themselves into two considerable branches, viz^{t}: Those which are previous, & those which are subsequent, to the resolutions of Congress of the 18th March, 1780. The former must be adjusted as soon as proper officers can be found & appointed for the purpose & proper principles established, so as that they may be liquidated in an equitable manner; for I am determined justice shall be the rule of my conduct as farr as the measure of abilities which the Almighty has been pleased to bestow shall enable me to distinguish between right & wrong. I shall never permit a doubt that the States will do what is right, neither will I ever beleive that any one of them can expect to derive any advantage from doing what is wrong. It is by being just to individuals, to each other, to the Union, to all; by generous grants of solid revenue, & by adopting energetic measures to collect that revenue; & not by complainings, vauntings, or recriminations that these States must expect to establish their independance & rise into power, consequence & grandeur. I speak to your Excellency with freedom, because it is my duty so to speak, & because I am convinced that the language of plain sincerity is the only proper language to the first magistrate of a free community. The acc^{os} I have mentioned as subsequent to the resolutions of the 18th March, 1780, admit of an imediate settlement, the several States have all the necessary materials. One side of the acc^{o} consists of demands made by the resolutions of Congress long since forwarded; the other must consist of compliances with those demands, — this latter part I am not in capacity to state & for that reason I am to request the

earliest information which the nature of things will permit of the moneys, supplies, transportation, &c., which have been paid, advanced, or furnished by your State, in order that I may know what remains due. The sooner full information can be obtained, the sooner shall we know what to rely on, & how to do equal justice to those who have contributed & those who have not, to those who have contributed at one period & to those who have contributed at another.

I enclose you an acc° of the specific supplies demanded of your State, as extracted from the Journals of Congress, tho without any mention of what has been done in consequence of those resolutions, because, as I have already observed, your Excell^cy will be able to discover the ballance much better than I can. I am further to entreat, Sir, that I may be favored with copies of the several Acts passed in your State since the 18th March, 1780, for the collection of taxes & furnishing supplies or other aids to the United States, the manner in which such acts have been executed, the time which may have been necessary for them to operate, and the consequences of their operation. I must also pray to be informed of so much of the internal police of your State as relates to the laying, assessing, levying & collecting of taxes. I beg leave to assure your Excellency that I am not prompted by an idle curiosity, or by any wish to discover what prudence wou'd dictate to conceal. It is necessary I shou'd be informed of these things, & I take the plain, open, candid method of acquiring information. To paliate or conceal any evils or disorders in our situation can answer no good purpose, they must be known before they can be cured, we must also know what resources can be brought forth that we may proportion our efforts to our means & our demands to both. It is necessary we should be in a condition to carry on the war with ease before we can expect to lay down our arms with security, before we

can treat of peace honorably, & before we can conclude it to advantage. I feel myself fettered at every moment, & embarassed in every operation, from my ignorance of our actual state & what is reasonably to be asked or expected, yet when I consider our real wealth & numbers, & when I compare them with other countrys, I feel a thorough conviction that we may do much more than we have yet done & with more ease to ourselves than we have yet felt, provided we adopt the proper mode of revenue & expenditure. Your Excellency's good sense will anticipate my observation on the necessity of being informed what moneys are in your Treasury & what sums you expect to have there, as also of the times they must probably be brought in. In addition to this, I must pray you to communicate the several appropriations.

A misfortune peculiar to America requires that I entreat your Excellency to undertake one more task which perhaps is farr from being the least difficult. It is, Sir, that you write very fully as to the amount of the several paper curr^{cys} now circulating in your State, the probable increase or decrease of each, & the respective rates of depreciation. Having now stated the several communications which are most indispensable, let me entreat of your Excellency's goodness that they may be made as speedily as possible, to the end I may be early prepared with those propositions which from a view of all circumstances may be most likely to extricate us from our present difficultys. I am also to entreat that you will inform me when your Legislature is to meet; my reason for making this request is that any proposals to be made to them may arrive in season for their attentive deliberation.

I know that I give you a great deal of trouble but, I also know it will be pleasing to you because the time & the labour will be expended in the service of your country. If, Sir, my feeble but honest efforts shou'd open to us the prospect of American glory, if we shou'd be able

to look forward to a period when supported by solid revenue & resource this war shou'd have no other duration or extent than the wisdom of Congress might allow, when its object shoud be the honor, not the independance, of our country. If with these fair views the States shou'd be rouzed, excited, animated in the pursuit, & unitedly determining to be in that happy situation, find themselves placed there by the very determination.

If, Sir, these things should happen soon the ref[l]ection that your industry has principally contributed to effect them woud be the rich reward of your toils and give to your best feelings their amplest gratification.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient & humble servant.

Rob^{t} Morris.

His Excell^{y} The Governor & Comm^{r} in Chief of the State of Connecticut.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Head Quarters near Dobb's Ferry, 26th July, 1781.

Hon^{d} Sir, — The army have just returned from a two or three days reconnoitring view of the enemy at York Island, where we again had a fair opportunity to satisfy our curiosity to a great extent, without the least movement from the enemy to interrupt us. Many circumstances shew their present weakness. It is really mortifying to find such listlessness & inertion in the States, when every thing seems within our grasp if we would but reach out the hand of power with which Providence has blessed us. To this day we are entirely ignorant, from any real appearances, whether the States will give us the least aid in men. The Gen^{l} is exceedingly anxious & finds himself in a most perplexing & ridiculous scituation, not being able to determine on any fixed plan

of operation, from the incertainty of his expectations & prospects. I wish the States would reflect that the first of August is already nearly come, & not one encouragement made by them yet fulfilled. It will be but a poor consolation to the Gen[l], that he will have to recriminate upon the States their want of support, when the campaign is lost without any success. The reflections of the States, I think, must be mortifying when the prize is lost, & the opportunity gone, & all for want of their exertions of means within their power. But the ways of Heaven are dark & intricate. Something seems to prevent a delivery from our evils; *when* the bar will be removed, Heaven will determine.

I am very sorry, in our present circumstances, for the letter written lately to Gen[l] Parsons; he takes it very hardly. I fear the expressions are little too severe considering the suffering & disappointed expectations of the line, & the pains he has taken to keep up the faith & credit of the State in the minds of the troops. The State cannot but be sensible that their promises have been long delayed, & that this delay added to the already galled feelings of the men previous to these promises could not but increase uneasiness. I wish this unhappy disaffection could be removed. Nothing will do it but an actual arrival of a sum of money. The expectation of it will no longer have any weight, & it is almost an insult (as they think) to tell them it is coming.

Gen[l] Wayne on the 6[th] July had a warm skirmish with almost the whole of L[d] Cornwallis army — supposing to have fallen on his rear. The action was warm & bravely supported against vast superiority of numbers, & proved one of those battles in which the Britons claim a victory & suffer very hard losses. Our return of killed, wounded & missing is about 150. Our rifle men did great execution & probably added much to the wounds of the enemy. Tis very probable Cornwallis will soon

leave Virginia, dividing his force, after establish^{g} a post at Portsmouth, to Charlestown & N. York. I am,

Your dutifull son,

J. TRUMBULL, J^{R}.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 1st, 1781.

SIR, — My health being reduced so low as not to admit of my constant attendance in Congress, and the scituation of my family and affairs making it necessary for me soon to return home, I propose, Sir, to return the begining of autumn, which, I hope, your Excellency will not disapprove of. I have wrote to M^{r} Law, who I supposed would come next to Congress, acquainting with my circumstances, and requesting him to come forward and take his seat in Congress by the 1st of Sept^{r}, or sooner if he could. And I take the liberty to request of your Excellency, in case M^{r} Law should by any means fail of coming, that some other gentleman in the delegation as shall be most convenient for them may be called on.

Nothing very material has of late passed in Congress. There is at present a representation from all the States except North Carolina. The Court of France has undertaken to guarrantee a loan for these States, of ten millions of livers in Holland. Recent assurances have been received of the friendly disposition of the King of Prussia. There is no account yet of the proposed mediation having made any farther progress than to be offered. Probably Great Britain will not be hasty in accepting it, if she beleives as delusively as her minister writes, that America is on the point of submission. There is perhaps too great an opposition of interests in this mediation for either of the parties at war to be willing to risk their claims with it farther than circumstances may require.

We have nothing later from the Southward than is contained in the enclosed papers.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humb^{l} serv^{t}.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 1st Aug., 1781. Ol. Elsworth, Esq^{r}, *de* his return, requesting another Delegate, M^{r} Law to come by Sept^{r}. rec^{d} 18th Aug^{t} vespere.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut.

HEAD QUARTERS, 2^{d} Augst, 1781.

HON^{D} SIR, — The inclosed was written some days ago, expecting to have had an opportunity of conveyance before this time. We are now arrived at the 2^{d} of August, & remain in the same perplexing, anxious & uncertain state we were at writing last, — not a man scarcely arrived in camp since that time. Provisions are coming on in good quantities; men are more wanted to eat them. Had recruits & militia been sent on agreable to requisition, we might most probably e'er this been in possession of the enemy's works on the north end of the York Island. I wish the opportunity may not by delay be totally lost. We are in hourly expectation of the arrival of a reinforcement to the enemy from Lord Cornwallis army in Virginia; they being in all probability (by letters from the Marquiss) preparing for embarkation at Portsmouth, about the 21st of July. When this reinforcement arrives the enemy will be in a very defensive state, if not able to defy our present numbers in the field; a ridiculous scituation this to be reduced to after loosing the richest opportunity that has perhaps ever offered itself to us during the contest! a mortifying reflection this to the Gen^{l}! but his feelings may be

collected from his own letter which accompanies this.* What will be the ideas of our allies on this occasion ? A tho't this, that will not bear to dwell upon.

Gen^{l} Greene in S^{o} Carolina has been obliged to raise the siege of 96, on the marching out of Lord Rawdon from Charlestown with his reinforcement w^{ch} he received from England, — a very unfortunate circumstance this, as Gen^{l} Greene had reduced every other post in the country & was just on the point of carrying this. It is not yet reduced to certainty whether L^{d} Cornwallis will draw all his troops from Virginia, or establish a post at Portsmouth & carry off the remainder. 'Tis most probable, from intercepted letters from L^{d} Germaine, that a post must be established at Portm^{o} at all events; if so, it will serve to divide & detail their troops, & put them more in our power, if we are not wanting to ourselves.

With most earnest wishes for the speedy arrival of men from the States to our aid, I am,

Most respectfully, Hon^{d} Sir,

Your dutifull son.

J. Trumbull, Jun^{r}.

P. S. I am just informed by Cap^{t} Brewster, that he has lately seen a gentleman from England so late as the 10th of May, who says that Bro^{r} Jack was then in confinement (where he had frequently seen him), having the liberty of a room & small yard, that no trial had been given him, nor indeed did he expect any, nor did he know when he should be liberated.

Gov^{r} Trumbull.

Indorsed : 2^{d} Aug^{t} 1781. Col^{o} Trumbull, *de* want of troops.

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* The circular letter of General Washington to Governor Trumbull is printed in 5 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. x. pp. 250–252. — Eds.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, August 7th, 1781.

SIR, — A resolution has this day been passed by Congress for appointing a Committee of five to confer with such person or persons as shall be appointed by the people inhabiting the N. Hamshire grants, on the west side of Connecticut River, respecting their claim to be an independent State, and on what terms they may be admitted into the federal union of these States, in case the United States in Congress assembled shall determine to recognize their independence, and a recommendation to the people of Vermont to send agents to Philadelphia, authorized & instructed to confer with said Committee on the matters aforesaid, and to agree to, and ratify terms and articles of union. Nothing very material of a public nature except the common executive business has passed since the joynt letter from the delegates. Our affairs at the Southward are as prosperous as can be expected; Ninety Six is evacuated by the enemy. I enclose this day's paper. I shall soon be destitute of money. I hope some will be sent by the first safe opportunity. I am, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's very humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

ROGER SHERMAN AND OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Augt 14th, 1781.

SIR, — We are honoured with your Excellency's letter of the 4th of this month, enclosing copies of an Act of the Council of Safety for expediting a supply of hard money for the Connecticut line of the army, which we are very

glad to see, and of your Excellency's letter to Governor Clinton vindicating the seizure of British goods on Long Island.* This measure he had complained of to Congress as attended with many abuses, and particularly dangerous to be pursued while the intended operations should be carrying on against New York, which induced Congress to come to an advisory resolve upon the matter, a copy of which we herewith inclose. We wish, however, for their fuller information on so interesting a subject, that they had had the benefit of your Excellency's letter, and shall yet lay it before them.

Your Excellency will have received two letters written circular to the States by the Superintendant of Finance, solliciting the grant of the 5 per cent duties heretofore recommended by Congress, and pressing for a speedy adjustment of the accounts of supplies and other disbursements made by the States. Both of which requests, it appears to us of much importance to the publick, and especially the interest of our State, should be complied with.

We enclose for your Excellency's perusal a late Act of Congress respecting Vermont, preparing the way for recognizing her independance and her admission into the union. The States of New York and New Hampshire, embarrassed and alarmed of late with the increasing claims of this people, have been very pressing for a decision, and there is reason to expect they will acquiesce in the measure now adopted.

Our affairs, at this time, to the Southward appear to be gaining strength. General Green's support from the country, which he is now able to protect, increases. Civil government is re-established in Georgia and expected soon to be in South Carolina. Lord Cornwallis yet remains in Virginia, but the force collected under the

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* See *ante*, p. 248. — Eds.

Marquis La Fayette has been able of late to cover the country from his ravages.

Letters have just been received from M^r^ Jay at Madrid, but they do not communicate any thing of special importance. One, of a later date, from M^r^ Carmichal, his secretary, mentions, as a matter he was convinced of from information he had obtained, that a demand from the Court of France to that of Vienna that an American Commissioner should be admitted at the proposed Congress for a general pacification, was acceded to; but that it does not yet appear when or where this Congress will be held. An embarkation of eight or ten thousand troops, equipped at great expence, was on the point of taking place from Spain, conjectured to be against Minorca. By various accounts from Europe it appears that most of the Statia fleet are captured and carried into France.

The Honourable Robert R. Livingston, Esquire, Chancellor of the State of New York, is appointed by Congress Secretary of Foreig[n] Affairs.

We hope some one or more of our delegates will soon arrive and take their seats in Congress, as they have been wrote to for that purpose some time since, and M^r^ Ellsworth, on account of his health and the circumstances of his family and affairs, expects shortly to return home.

We have the honor to be, Sir, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^t^, hum^bl^ serv^ts^.

ROGER SHERMAN.
OLIV^R^ ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 14^th^ Aug^t^, 1781. Hon^ble^ Sherman & Elsworth, Esq^rs^, *de* Vermont. Armed Boats. Letter of M^r^ Jay, &c. rec^d^ 27^th^ ins^t^.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut.

HEAD QUARTERS, 22d Augst, 1781.

HONr SIR, — Before I returned to camp from Danbury the General had taken his resolution, which is cõmunicated to you in his own letter of this date.* The next day after my arriving in camp, he began his march with the troops, & crossed at King's Ferry on Monday. We are now waiting for the crossing the French army, which will not be compleatly effected, I suspect, in less than two or three days. As soon as the whole are over, the General & family will proceed on to Phila, where he will probably wait the arrival of the troops, who will embark at Trenton & fall down the Delaware to Christiana, from whence by a march of 10 or 12 miles we arrive at the head of Elk River, which leads us into the Chesapeak Bay, at its head, & from thence to any point which circumstances may direct to.

From present appearances, altho attended with many contingencies, our prospects seem to promise very fair; & with the blessings of Heaven, we may accomplish great objects.

Our march will be so rapid that I shall have but little opportunity (& perhaps but little matter) to write you, unless from Phila; & at the extent of our walk I shall be at such distance, & our opportunities, I suspect, will be so infrequent & interrupted, that I have but little expectation to gratify your wishes, or my own inclination in writing to you, Sir! I hope therefore that my friends will not be alarmed, should they not hear from me for a long time to come. The same kind Providence watches over our safety in one place as in another, & I may perhaps

* The circular letter of General Washington to Governor Trumbull is printed in 5 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. x. pp. 254–256. — EDS.

as soon visit my friends on a return from this long march as to have continued inactive in this quarter till the campaign is closed. The withdraw of the troops, & the absence of the General, will render it necessary for the States to keep a very watchfull eye on the motions of the enemy on the sea coasts, & to keep themselves as well guarded at all points as possible. I am very apprehensive they may find leisure to vent their mischievous humour on our shores.

TRENTON, 29th. I am thus far on my way.

J. T.

Indorsed: 22d & 29th Augt, 1781. Colo Jonth Trumbull, *de* movement of the army, recd 5th Septr, meridie.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, State of Connecticut, Lebanon. Philadelphia, Jona Trumbull, Jr.

PHILA, 3d Septemr, 1781.

MY HOND SIR, —Four days have we been in this city. The American troops are passed; the French 1st Division is now on the Comon near the town; all are come on beyond our expectations.

The French fleet are not yet heard of. The British fleet have arrived at N. York, where they remained but too days, & are sailed for the Chesepeak. To what cause must we attribute the constant disappointment of our hopes from the arrival of our naval allies upon these coasts? You Sir! will not be at a loss to reply to this question! I wish this circumstance attended by many others pointg the same way might teach us a greater reliance on our God, & our own exertions.

Colo Lawrence is arrived in this town, from France via Boston; the object of his mission having been most happily executed, the good effects of which I hope we shall soon experience.

The delay of the appearance of the French fleet is a great damper on our expectations; every thing, however, is going on as tho' the Count D^{e}Grasse was already in the Chesapeak. The Gen^{l} & family will leave town in a day or two. Lord Cornwallis has abandoned James River, Portsmouth, &c., & taken his position on York River, at Gloster & York, where he is fortifying by land & water. The Marquiss is watch^{g} his motions & getting below line; Gen^{l} Greene is in good fortune yet in Carolina; the enemy have lately suffered in small encounters.

We know nothing more of Admiral D Barras; nor from Count D^{e} Grasse; hope he is safe; his intention was for Chesapeak, where he expects to meet the other fleet.

Adieu! my Hon^{d} Sir, your prayers, I am assured, will attend us! May Heaven's blessing rest on you & all my dear friends & connections.

Your most affectionate Son.

Indorsed: 3^{d} Sept^{r}, 1781. Col^{o} Trumbull, a Phil^{a}; had not heard of the arrival of the French admiral. Intelligence. rec^{d} 10th ins^{t} vespere.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelphia, 4th Sep^{r}, 1781.

Sir, — General Washington & General Rochambeau are now in this city, and the French army pass'd through the city yesterday on their way to Virginia.

Col. John Lawrence also arrived in town yesterday; it is about 80 days since he left France; he was very expeditious & succesful in accomplishing the business with which he was charged. He has obtained a sum of money, and a considerable quantity of clothing for the army, and military stores, among which are about 13,000 muskets, part of which is arrived. He brings no news respecting the politics of Europe. The latest accounts

from General Green are contained in his letter of the 26th of July, published in this day's paper, which is enclosed. The Superintendant of Finance is making arrangements to save expence. The Board of Admiralty & the Navy Boards are to be abolished, and the remains of the Navy is to be managed by an agent, with a salary of 1500 dollars per annum, who is allowed one clerk with a salary of 500 dollars. The Board of Treasury & Chambers of Accounts are also to be abolished, and a Controller & a suitable number of Auditors are to be appointed to liquidate the public accounts. The supply of provisions is to be by contract, as soon as matters can be prepared for it. The Court of France are friendly to our cause and willing to afford us what aids they can, but think we might do more toward carrying on the war from our own resources, without being so dependent for money on France.

Mr Hillegas informs me that he has some bills of exchange to send to the loan office in Connecticut for payment of interest. I hope Mr Brown will be sent on soon & bring some money for me, — a sum less than fifty pounds will not be sufficient to pay my expence here and to enable me to return home.

It is necessary that one or more delegates should come immediately; there are but eight of the States represented. 'Tis probable that delegates will arrive soon from the State of Vermont. I have enclosed several of the latest news papers, but they dont contain much news.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient
& most humble servant,

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

PEEKSKILL, 7 Sep^{r}, 1781.

SIR, — A great proportion of the troops who have joined us to serve to the first of Jan^{y} are destitute of shoes and unfit for duty; they cannot be supplied here. I thought it my duty to inform the Council of this matter that they might take such measures as shall seem to them best. Perhaps the respective Towns can immediately supply their own men; or if the State Commissary had the shoes here the recruits would be able to purchase and the State be at no expence.

I give your Excellency joy on the arrival of the French fleet in Chesapeake, and am, with the greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} servant.

J. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Gov. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Sept^{r} 14, 1781. Gen. Jed. Huntington, *de* forwarding shoes and stockings to Connecticut troops, &c.

THOMAS MUMFORD† TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull at Hartford. p fav^{r} Cap^{t} Chenevard.

GROTON, 9th Septem^{r}, 1781.

SIR, — I have this ins^{t} received yours of yesterday p M^{r} Sam^{l} Raymond returning express, requesting a narrative of the barbarous scene of the enemy commited on the brave inhabitants of this neighbourhood that assisted in the defence of Fort Griswould. The conduct of the

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* For notice of Jedidiah Huntington, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 3 *n.* — EDS.

† Thomas Mumford was a wealthy and influential citizen of Groton, which he often represented in the General Assembly, and he also carried on business in New London. See Miss Caulkins's History of New London and Public Records of Connecticut, *passim.* — EDS.

enemy cannot be fully assertained but from those that saw or felt the bloody tragedy; our wounded left behind are exercised with great pain, the chief of them are dangerously ill. I cannot call on them for the facts at present, when our prisoners return shall obtain the particulars. The best information I can at present obtain is that Col° Ledyard prevailed on a number of the brave defenders of American liberty to joyn him in defence of said fortress, added to the small garison amounting in the whole to about 150, who nobly defended said fortress against about 1500 picked Brittish & foreign troops, who attacked that fort sword in hand, & were repulsed for half an hour, during which time the enemy suffered about ¼ of their numbers in killed & wounded, but being over power'd in numbers Col° Ledyard, finding the enemy had gained possession of some part of the fort & opened the gate, having three men killed, tho^t^ proper to surrender himself with the garrison prisoners, & presented his sword to an officer, who rec^d^ the same & imediately lunged it thr° the brave comandant, when the ruffans (no doubt by order) pierced him in many places with bayonets. Liev^ts^ Chapman & Stanton of the garison with upwards of 70 others were inhumanly murdered with the Colonel, chiefly the most worthy inhabitants of this town. My son Cap^t^ Peter Richards make one of this number. About forty are dangerously wounded, & about forty made prisoners, whose lives were spared by the interposition of a Brittish officer, who entered the fort too late to save the brave Col° Ledyard, &c. The names of the whole killed & wounded I have not time just now to send your Excellency. Never was a post more nobly defended, nor Brittish cruelty more wantonly exercised. We have lost the flower of this town, both in officers & respectable inhabitants. My house with the chief of the others on the bank are burnt, & many families left destitute of food & raiment; all the stores in New London & more than

half the houses are likewise consumed. I conclude your Excellency is informed the infamous Arnold commanded; he dined with Jeremiah Miller, & afterwards had his house burnt with the others. I can give your Excellency no encouragement from our privateers, the two brig^{s} I am concerned in are sunk (to save them), their sails & riggen all consumed in stores, one other has no guns, so that only one remains fit for duty, unequal to the plan proposed. I hear there is two French ships of force at Newport. Gen^{l} Tyler (now here) has tho^{t} proper to order some publick stores dealt out for the present relief of those that have lost their all, & no husbands, &c., to provide them support. He wishes for your Excellency's approbation of his conduct herein; he has appointed Doct^{r} Turner Superintendant of the Hospital Department, & directed him to supply the needfull for the wounded. I gave him my advice in this matter. M^{r} Shaw is gone as a flag to endeavour to obtain our prisoners; pen, ink & paper scarce; I can add no more than that I am, with every sentiment of esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} & very hum^{l} serv^{t}.

THO^{s} MUMFORD.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 9th Sept^{r}, 1781. Tho^{s} Mumford, Esq^{r}, *de* the action at Fort Griswold & New Lond^{n}.

WILLIAM HEATH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, PEEKSKILL, Sept. 10, 1781.

SIR, — I am this moment honored with yours of the 7th. I received information on the evening of the 5th that 26 sail of vessels passed Stamford the 4th at noon. It was generally supposed they were passing through the Sound to escape the French fleet which might be cruizing without Sandy-hook.

On the evening of the 8th I received information, but in a very vague manner, that the enemy had gone to

New London, had blown up the magazines, were plundering the town, and, report added, burnt it. On this, apprehending that the enemy, who I knew could not stay at New London with the force they were represented to have, and that they might have designs on New Haven, Stamford, Stratford, &c., on their return, I ordered twenty dragoons and two hundred infantry to march from Colonel Putnam's detachment towards Stamford to give countenance and support to the militia, and to act as occasion might require, and ordered a brigade to be held in readiness to march on the shortest notice. Yesterday I received information that a fleet of thirty sail returned to New York on the evening of the 7th, which was supposed to be the free-booters, and immediately after I had information that the enemy were at New London on the evening of the 7th and had not burnt the town. Thus have I been held in uncertainty without a hint officially of what were facts, until the receipt of your Excellency's letter. The long delay of any official intelligence led me to conclude there was little reality in the whole. I this day received information that Sir Henry Clinton was collecting his whole force at New York, that the troops were embarking, and that it was apprehended he had a design on the Jersies, — that he would land at or near Monmouth, and push towards Philadelphia, in order if possible to divert General Washington from making prisoner of Lord Cornwallis and his army, which at present seems almost inevitable. From the alarm which has been given to your State, who are turning out with spirit, it is most probable the next blow will be in some other quarter. I have received official intelligence from Albany of a design by surprise to burn that city. Each of these claim my attention. But if the army under my command is divided to cover every place which is vulnerable to the enemy, it will be dissipated

as an army, and those important posts which are the key to the North river, and link of the eastern and southern States, will be left defenceless, when it is my duty at every hazard to *maintain them.* The present manœuvres of Sir Henry may be designed for the purpose of drawing off my force, that he may avail himself of such an opportunity. I shall endeavor to guard against his deceptions, carefully watch every motion of the enemy, and if possible counteract them at every point not too remote from me. But your Excellency will see the impossibility of assigning the army to different posts at a distance, there to remain, were it only for a short time. The force under my command, although respectable, is at present far short of what the commander in chief supposed necessary when he was lately pleased to urge the sending on two thirds of the first number of militia requested from the New England States, which number is yet *very deficient.* In conclusion, I pray your Excellency to be assured of every support, *occasionally*, to such places as may be in danger, within my reach and power.

I wish Major-General Parsons to join the army as soon as his presence at the eastward can be dispensed with.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

W. Heath.

P. S. Colonel Putnam will be instructed to lend aid to the western sea-port towns, should the enemy attempt their destruction. I request, in every instance where any movements of the enemy are discovered, which from the nature of them render it probable that they have not come to my knowledge, I may have instant notice of it, and aid shall be put in motion if necessary, even to the eastern parts of your State. W. H.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

Indorsed: 10th Septr, 1781. Majr General Heath. On my letter *de* N. London, recd 15th instt.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Sep^{r} 15th, 1781.

SIR, — I was honored with your Excellency's letter of the 29th of August by M^{r} Brown. General Washington, the French army & part of the American troops pass through this city on their way to Virginia. Count Degrass is arrived there with 28 ships of the line, some frigates and about 5000 land forces; the troops landed on the south side of James River, & joined the Marquis De la Fayette. 'Tis supposed that Lord Cornwallis and his army are so blocked up that they cannot escape being captured. Col. Laurens accomplished the business he was charged with at the Court of France to good satisfaction; he has brought over about 13,000 stand of arms, a quantity of clothing, ammunition and other warlike stores, and about two millions of livres in money, which is put under the direction of the Superintendant of Finance. Col. Lawrence does not bring any political news, he says that his father & your son are yet confined in London, but their friends are allowed to visit them. There is a Committee for making the estimate of supplies for next year. I suppose the mode of obtaining the supplies will be under the direction of the Superintendant of Finance. By a resolution passed this week the navy is put under his direction until further orders, and the Board of Admiralty & Navy boards are abolished. There is also a new arrangement of the Treasury department, the Board is to be abolished the 20th of this month, there is to be a Controller, and as many Auditors and Clerks as the Superintendant shall judge necessary to liquidate public accounts. A new arrangement of the Post Office is also preparing; it is proposed to reduce the postage to what it was before the war, and so to

regulate it that it may defray the charges of the office without expence to the public.

Thursday, the 13th of December next, is appointed to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving throughout the United States, and a Committee is appointed to prepare a suitable Proclamation.

I have heard nothing from the State of Vermont since their agents left this place in August, but expect delegates will soon arrive from thence to Congress, in case they comply with the only condition of their being admitted into the union, which is to relinquish their claims to the encroachments lately made on the States of New Hamshire & New York. It has been reported here that New London is burnt by the enemy, but I hope it is not true: but fear they will make some devastations on the sea-coasts, unless they are well guarded.

There are five States not represented in Congress; the President wrote by order of Congress to the executives of those States, to inform them of the necessity of their delegates coming on immediately. Those sent eastward were taken in the mail & carried to New York the beginning of this month. Congress have since ordered an escort for the safe conveyance of the mail between Morristown & Fishkill.

I am much obliged to your Excellency for the money sent me by Mr Brown. I applied to the Secretary for some naval commissions, and he says he has put some up and will deliver them to Mr Brown. I have enclosed some of the last papers which contain what little news we have here.

I have the honor to be, with great esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient

& most humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

WILLIAM HEATH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEADQUARTERS, CONTINENTAL VILLAGE,
September 23, 1781.

SIR, — The enemy's fleet, with the troops which have for some time been embarked at New York, fell down to the Narrows yesterday week. They took all the heavy cannon from the grand battery and Governor's Island on board. The troops embarked consist of all the best corps from New York, Long Island, &c. General Clinton has embarked with them. They had not put to sea when I received my last accounts, nor was their destination known.

A person from New York reports that the British fleet had received a severe drubbing from the French, that the admiral's ship had returned to Sandy hook in a shattered condition, that six sail of the line were drove on shore and one sunk, the people in New York in the greatest consternation packing up their effects, &c. Another account from New York this morning is that four sail of the line had come up to the city under jury masts, having been dismasted in the late engagement. Arnold's loss in his late expedition to New London was very great; three British regiments suffered exceedingly. The killed and wounded are said to be near 500. The wounded to the number of 300 were landed in boats at Harlem, and conveyed to the Hospital in waggons, carts & sleds. This was done to prevent their being seen by the troops and inhabitants at the city. This I have from a person who saw them. Arnold brought back but little plunder, his conduct generally disapproved.

The enclosed extract this moment came to hand. Our affairs in every quarter wear favorable aspects.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

W. HEATH.

His Excy Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23d Septr 1781. Majr General Heath, *de* intelligence. Embarkation. The sufferings of the British fleet. Sufferings of Arnold at N. Lond. recd 28th at 11 o'clo. A.M.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

WILLIAMSBURG, 23d Septemr, 1781.

HONd SIR, — I arrived in very good health at this place eight days ago. I have since been, in company with his Excellency, on board the Count De Grasse at Cape Henry. The Admiral has under his comand, since the junction which he happily & critically effected with Count Barras, the grandest fleet ever seen on these shores. We found the Admiral perfectly well disposed, & in the happiest sentiments of cooperation with us in our present attempt. Our troops & stores are happily arriving & arrived, & are now debarkg, some difficulty on acco of provisions & transportation occur; but by superiour exertions I hope will be soon removed, & in a few days, I expect, we shall find ourselves before the works of the enemy at York & Glocester.

Lord Cornwallis, since he has found us makg serious preparations to force him, is makg himself as formidable in his fortifications as possibly he can, & I expect will be found as a bull in the toils, very troublesome. Provisions, it is supposed he has laid in, in sufficient quantities; his strength is very respectable; his disposition, I dare say, will lead him to make a desperate defence. Proud spirits, however, often come down very surprizingly. With the

blessing of Heaven, we hope for success, & not without great prospects.

The British fleet appeared off the Bay of Chesapeak, — were pursued by Admiral de Grasse, who captured two fine frigates, & returned to his station at Cape Henry.

We are informed that Admiral Digby is now on the coast, if not arrived at N. York, probably with ten sail of the line from England. This number, however, will still leave a superiority on the part of the French by 5 or 6 capital ships, so that we hope no molestation from this reinforcement.

The station of the French within the Capes will, of itself, give the Count de Grasse verry great advantage.

Adieu! my honored Sir,

I am your dutifull son.

J. TRUMBULL, J^R.

GOV^R TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23^d Sept^r, 1781. W^msburg. Col^o Jon^th Trumbull, *de* Admiral de Grasse, Earl Cornwallis. Expectations, rec^d at Bolton 8^th Oct^o seq.

J. G. DIRIKS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

BOSTON, Sep^t 25^th, 1781.

D^R SIR, — I have the honor to inform you that the brig Gates, Cap^t Newman, is arrived at Newburryport in 36 days from Amsterdam, in whom came passenger M^r Brush of the State of N. York with dispatches to Congress from his Excell. J. Adams, Esqr, M. P. at the Dutch court. The above vessel left the Texel the 15^th August, by whom we have the following very interesting intellegence, viz., that the Dutch fleet, consisting of 6 ships of the line and 5 frigates, under the command of Rear Admiral Soetman, left the Fly the 1^st of August with 70 sail of merchantmen for the Baltic; on the 5^th fell in with and defeated of Bargen (North sea) the English fleet, con-

sisting of 9 ships of the line and a number of frigates, commanded by Admiral Parker, who, relying on his superiority of force, hoisted Dutch colours under English out of derision and bore down on the Dutch admiral, who had previously ordered his convoy ahead under the protection of the frigates, and formed a line of battle. Their antagonist were so warmly received that they judged it prudent to haul by the wind, and leave their adversaries entire masters of the sea. There were no vessels taken on either side; the Dutch lost two line of battle ships that sunk the next day; one of them had 8 feet water in her hold during the greater part of the action; but the captain Count Benting (who was killed towards the conclusion of the engagement) kept the line for fear of discouraging others, notwithstanding the general cry his ship was sinking, and obstinately supported the fire from two of the enemy's line of battle ships, and obliged them to quit their line. The Dutch lost above 400 men killed in the action, and were obliged to return into port to refit; the men of war entered the Texel the day Capt. Newman sail'd from thence. They were much damaged in their masts, rigging, &ct.; however the English must have suffered infinitely more, being twice forced out of their line, and at last obliged by flight to leave their enemy victorious, who undoubtedly would have captured some of them had they been in a situation to follow them;

Dutch force was	1 - 76	English force	1 - - - - 84
	3 - 64		3 - - - - 74
	2 - 56		5 - - - - 64

Six of the provinces have agreed to declare the independence of America, viz., Gelderland, Holland, Groningen, Overyssel, Uytrecht, and Friesland, and there is no doubt but Zeeland will come into, by the next session of the States General. With the highest pleasure I can inform your Excell. that Coll. John Trumbull is on board the

Charlestown frigate bound for this continent, one M^r^ Van Hassets, a gentleman of the province of Gelderland, a great friend of Baron de Capellen, is also on board as passenger; the frigate mounted 28 – 36 pounders on one deck and 12 – 12 pounders on her quarter deck, 550 men equipage. They were to sail in a week after Cap^t^ Newman left the Texel. I beg your Excellency to accept my warmest congratulations.

I have the honor to be, with greatest respect, d^r^ Sir,

Your Excell^e^ most obed^t^ & humb. servant.

DIRIKS.

Your Excellency will excuse my writtings, it was in haste.

This moment I hear that several vessels under the convoy of the Charlestown frigatte are arrived in Caske Bay from Holland. But want confirmation.

Indorsed: 23^d^ Sept^r^, 1781. Col^o^ Diricks, *de* Dutch fleet's fight w^th^ British.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

WILLIAMSBURG, 28^th^ Septem^r^, 1781.

HON^D^ SIR, — Col^o^ Wadsworth gives me an opportunity, by express of his going to Boston, to write to you in such way as I hope you will receive my letter. The last I wrote was 23^d^, committed to the care of the delegates of Connecticut for conveyance from Philadelphia.

In that you was informed that our preparations were fast ripening to their point of operation; some obstacles (not unexpected indeed) have taken place to retard our movement to the enemy's works till this time. To-morrow, I think, we shall move. Batteries I hope will be opened by the 1^st^ Oct^o^. Every acc^o^ indicates an obstinate resistance on the part of the enemy; indeed L^d^ Cornwallis

has nothing else to justify himself, & besides this he will keep up a hope of relief from the appearance of the British fleet, conjoined with Digby's additional ships, which is an event expected; & our accounts also announce the embarkation of a large body of troops in N. York, with S^r^ Henry Clinton at their head, whose views are probably point^g^ southward.

Admiral D^e^ Grasse, however, will have the larger number of capital ships, which, together with his advantageous position which he has taken in the Bay, it is hoped, will still maintain his superiority, & give little hope to S^r^ Henry to throw in his succours to Lord Cornwallis. The events of war are very uncertain; our prospects continue to promise fair; the issue is in the hand of Providence.

Yesterday & this day we are favored with accounts from General Greene's army, which bear the face of authenticity, altho not official, which announce a very severe battle between the troops of America & the British under a Col° Stewart. The success of the day (the 8^th^ of instant) was some time various, & finally issued in favor of Gen^l^ Greene, who pushed the enemy about 6 miles to a strong position, the field being left to American army, with 260 enemy killed, 450 wounded, 300 prisoners. Our loss very great, not ascertained. Col° Washington's horse cut to pieces, & every officer in the corps either killed or wounded but one, — the Col° among the latter.

Col° Lee with two French regiments were in pursuit of the enemy; a warm skirmishing had been heard on the 9^th^, the consequence not known, but judged favorable. A most interest^g^ piece of intelligence, if true! something has undoubtedly happened. We wait with impatience for Gen^l^ Greene's dispatches.

I am in exceeding good health, thro Divine Goodness, & hope to continue my correspondence with you in the

same good condition; you may depend on my improving every good opportunity.

With the most dutifull respect,

I am, Your Son.

P. S. The haste in which I write must be an excuse for all my inaccuracies.

Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Williamsburg, 28^th^ Sept^r, 1781. Col^o Jon^th^ Trumbull, *de* L^d^ Cornwallis, &c., rec^d^ 27^th^ Oct^o^ at noon.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct^r^ 3, 1781.

SIR, — By a delegate from North Carolina who arrived last evening we have an account that General Green with about 2000 men mos[t]ly militia had an engagement with about 1500 British troops in South Carolina, about 50 miles from Charlestown, on the 8^th^ of last month; the action was very severe on both sides; that the enemy were totally routed, with the loss of between 700 & 1000 killed, wounded & taken prisoners; that General Green's loss in killed & wounded was between 2 & 300; that Col. Lee and Col. Marian were in pursuit of the enemy. This account does not come by letter from General Green or any officer in his army; but our informant says he saw a letter from a hospital surgeon who was about 12 miles from the place of action, which gave the account. Governor Burke of North Carolina was surprized & taken by a number of Tories, and is now a prisoner with the enemy. We have nothing material from Virginia since my last. By every account from New York the British fleet suffered greatly in the late engagement with Count De Grasse. I mentioned to the Superintendant of Finance this morning the affair of supplies for the ensuing season,

& the necessity of giving timely notice to the States what provisions are to be expected from them; he says he shall have a conferrence with the Board of War upon that subject to-morrow. I send this by M^r^ Webster who is just ready to set out. I am, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

GOV^r^ TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS BEFORE YORK, 8^th^ Oct^o^, 1781.

HON^D^ SIR, — I have just a moment to inform you of the receipt of your letter of the 13^th^ ult^o^ from Hartford, which reached me in about twenty days. I am very much affected with sorrow at the loss of N. London, especially the wanton & most inhuman murder of their inhabitants. Some satisfaction, however, arises to my mind from the anticipation we have of soon hav^g^ L^d^ Cornwallis & his army in our possession. A most happy coincidence of circumstances have hitherto attended all our movements & preparations, which gives us the pleasing hope that a kind Providence is embarked in favor of our attempts.

The army moved from Williamsburg on the 28^th^ ult^o^, & took quiet possession of their ground in front of the enemy, with very little shew of opposition; on the 30^th^ the enemy abandoned their exteriour line of works, a strong position without the town, and retired to their interiour defence very near to the town, — by this means giving us the quiet possession of very comand^g^ grounds which we had laid our calculation would take us many days to obtain. From the 30^th^ ult^o^ to the 6^th^ instant we have been employed in getting up from our land^g^ the heavy artillery, amunition, stores, &c., & in mak^g^ some preparatory works in face of the enemy. A very inade-

quate means of transportation has been the principal cause of this slow progress. On the night of the 6th our trenches were fortunately opened, without discovery to the enemy untill day break, by which time our men were so covered that not the least harm was received in that dangerous operation. Indeed very little loss has to this time been experienced; the enemy have kept up a small & sparing fire almost the whole time since the 30th, to very little purpose, but to waste their amunition, which, we have reason to suppose, they have not to spare. The Count de Grasse with his fleet keeps his position in the Bay, & seems fully disposed to co-operate in our enterprize to its perfect completion. The utmost harmony prevails in all our operations, both by land & sea.

Digby, it seems, brings from Europe but 6 ships of the line, instead of 10 which were mentioned. The ships under Graves, we hear, have suffered much in the action off Chesepeak, while Count Dᵉ Grasse has sustained almost no damage worth mentionᵍ. In this state of the two fleets we hope their is little danger to our operations from any relief to be given Lᵈ Cornwallis from N. York, the only hope, I fancy, that now sustains him. Two or three weeks, I think, will decide his fate. I mention two or three weeks, because he is so encompassed with strong works that our approaches will be regular, cautious, & therefore slow.

I most sincerely congratulate you, my Honᵈ Sir! & my country, on the very important, well fought battle of Genˡ Greene on the 8th ultº, in which the Genˡ mentions that victory was his, & was compleat, 1100 men, out of about 2000, either killed, wounded or prisoners, about 1000 arms, &c. The particulars you will probably receive from Congress before this reaches, therefore I shall not take your time with their relation.

I continue to enjoy (thro Divine Goodness) a fine state of health; — the weather begins to be like ours in N.

England, & to regain its elasticity, which I hope will be a means to brace the unstrung nerves of many of our poor fellows.

Most affectionately, I am, Hon^{d} Sir,

Your dutifull son.

Gov^{r} Trumbull.

Indorsed: 8th Oct^{o}, 1781. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, *de* L^{d} Cornwallis, rec^{d} 27th ins^{t} at noon.

GURDON SALTONSTALL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

New London, Oct^{o} 10th, 1781.

May it please your Excellency, — As the conflagration of this town hath been very fatal to the records & files of the Court of Probates in this district, esteem it my duty to give you the state of the case.

About the year 1776, the records & files were carried into the country, & there remained until the Forts Trumbull & Griswold were established, & then, apprehending the town was in safety, the records were occasionaly brought to town, consisting of fourteen books, & the files from the year 1776 to this time; they were lodged in M^{r} Joshua Coit's (Clerk of Probates) office, at Esq^{r} Miller's, & in the late suden destruction were all consumed by fire. The Clerk lost all his own books, papers & apparel. Esq^{r} Miller lost all his furniture & other effects in his house. The like hap̃ened at my house, haveing saved only a few beds, some apparel, & a pilow case of papers that had been in my trunk some years.

Verily I had no idea the enemy would burn the town, and in half an hour after I left my house they were there.

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* Gurdon Saltonstall, third son of Gov. Gurdon Saltonstall, was born at New London, Dec. 22, 1708, and graduated at Yale College in 1725. He attained great influence in Connecticut, and was Judge of Probate for the New London District from 1751 till his death, Sept. 19, 1785. He married a daughter of John Winthrop, F.R.S., and had six sons and eight daughters. One of the daughters was the second wife of Silas Deane. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. i pp. 316–318. — Eds.

I had employed myself the morning, by going towards the enemy to endeavor that some opposition might be made, but the sudeñess of their landing & marching to town, made it impracticable to raise a single company of soldiers to oppose them; & when they entered the south end of the town, and within musket shot of me, returned to my house & imediately quited it; refer your Excellency to the bearer M^{r} Joshua Coit, for a more particular account of this dismal misfortune.

I am, with the highest esteem,

Your Excell$^{y's}$ most obed^{t}, hum^{l} serv^{t}

G. SALTONSTALL.

His Excell^{y} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 10th Oct^{o}, 1781. Hon^{o} Gurdon Saltonstall, Esq^{r}, *de* conflagration at New London; the Records, &c., of Court of Probates for y^{e} district burnt, rec^{d} 20th Nov^{r} seq. p hand of M^{r} Joshua Coit.

JOHN TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

BILBAO, 11th October, 1781.

HON^{D} SIR, — In my letter which accompanies this I mention the name of M^{r} Gillon, with a promise of giving you his history, — an odious task, which I should not have impos'd upon myself were his character only interesting in private life.

M^{r} Gillon was born of Scotch parents in the city of Rotterdam, and enter'd into life as cabbin boy on board a Dutch ship, from which he rose to command a vessell of his own, and at length settled as a merchant in S^{o} Carolina, where he acquired a considerable property. About four years ago that State resolv'd to employ a person to come to Europe & purchase & fit out three frigates, and, as remittances were precarious, it was further resolv'd to impower him to borrow for the State a sum not greater than £70,000 st^{lg}. M^{r} G., being a seaman,

a man of business, & speaking several languages, was chosen for this service & appointed Commodore with full powers to borrow money, to purchase or build ships, & to appoint officers, & equip them. The employment was too important for a vain man, and instead of attending properly to his business, M^r^ G. spent a long time in visiting the Courts of Versailles, the Hague, Berlin, Denmark, Sweden, &c., dressed in the most extravagant manner, and decorated with a red ribbon across his breast to give the greater impression of his consequence. Meantime nothing effectual was done untill June, 1780, when he enter'd into a contract with the Cheva^lr^ D'Luxembourg for a large ship which had been built in Amsterdam for the King of France, and given by him for a number of years to the Chev^r^. The ship was at that time nearly fit for sea. Her officers and part of her crew were soon engag'd, and she was to sail the 1^st^ September following, but delay follow'd delay, expences accumulated, and when Col^o^ Laurens arriv'd at the Court of Versailles in March last, Mr. G. in very supplicating terms represented to him his situation as such, that, unless he should be assisted with a sum of money, he must be reduc'd to the disgracefull necessity of selling his ship to satisfy the demands against her, and propos'd, upon condition of receiving £10,000 st^lg^, to sell to Col^o^ L. a quantity of cloathing to that amount, which he had purchas'd on acc^o^ of the State of S^o^ Carolina, and further to receive on board his ship, and carry to America, such additional quantity as Col^o^ L. should direct. With a wish to procure so fine a ship upon the coast of America, and to reconcile the general interest with that of the State of S^o^ Carolina, Col^o^ Laurens consented to the proposition, a contract was mutually sign'd, and Maj^r^ Jackson was sent to Holland to see its execution. Goods were purchas'd to the amount of £50,000, & partly put on board, when, under the pretence that they incommoded the ship's

crew, they were turn'd on shore. Mr. G. then agreed to charter other ships to receive the goods on board and convoy them. This also was delay'd under various pretences untill the frigate was ready for sea.

The plan was now ripe, and therefore (without mentioning his intention to Maj^{r} Jackson, who was on board,) under pretence of trying his ship's sailing, M^{r} G. pass'd the Dutch fleet, and anchor'd without the Bar of the Texel, at three leagues distance from the land. The convoy were not yet ready, and, as it was reasonable to expect from the nature of the coast, we were oblig'd to put to sea. After several days beating at sea, we return'd to our former station, but were again driven out the next day. A variety of manœuvres were practis'd to blind the gentlemen on board and induce them to suppose all that happened the effect of necessity, and several councils of war were held to justify by their advice the measures which M^{r} G. had already determined upon. It was at length determined not to attempt returning to the Texel, for the convoy, but to proceed on the voyage to America, which was the ostensible place of destination, and we stood on to the westward untill the 16th of September. We were then in Lat. 58 & Long. 23½ W. Another council of war was call'd, who determin'd, that it was necessary the ship should put into some port in Europe to revictual and refit because there was not sufficient provision on board to carry her to America, and her rigging was too much damaged to bear the gales we might expect upon that coast. M^{r} G. propos'd the Canary Islands, but for once was overrul'd, and on the 20th of September we anchor'd in the port of Corunna.

This bare narration of facts is sufficient to establish the true character of the man, but a few remarks will illustrate it still farther.

The only consideration which the State of S^{o} Carolina has for the sums which M^{r} G. has squander'd, and which

are not less than £100,000, is this ship which was hir'd in June, 1780, for three years, and has yet done nothing, altho half the contract is already elaps'd.

In the contract with Col° Laurens M^r G. solemnly assures him that the sum of £10,000 was sufficient to satisfy all his creditors, which is so far from true that one real reason for his quitting the Texel road was the apprehension of an arrest.

Instead of going to Amsterdam to close his accounts he sent for his creditors on board, after he had pass'd the bar, and finally left all his accounts unadjusted.

One half of the money which Col. Laurens advanc'd with that sole intention was not paid to his creditors, but carry'd to sea, to refit the ship for a second cruise.

The measure of putting into Corunna was not necessary, for when we bore away, there was on board bread and water for seven, & meat for eight, weeks, and we were no further distant from the Banks of Newfoundland than from Corunna.

The immediate consequences to the army of this breach of contract with Col. Laurens are sufficiently serious; yet less so, than the injury he has done to the public credit of America in Europe. He has borrow'd large sums in France, Holland, and Germany from all those who were best affected to our interests, and has generally left them with unsettled accounts, which with his infamous conduct to his own country is sufficient to render our friends not only cautious, but even suspicious of all future applications.

Some time before our arrival at Corunna, Col° Searle, Maj^r Jackson, and myself had come to an open rupture with M^r G. and of course left the ship immediately. We arriv'd at this place the 20^th ult°, after a tedious passage, and shall be delay'd here untill the last of the month, when I hope to sail on board a fine 20 gun ship with better success. A ship arriv'd here yesterday from Salem,

with accounts as late as the middle of October. I congratulate you on the glorious prospect of general success, while I lament the destruction of New London, and the death of so many brave men.

With all duty and affection, I am, Hon^{d} Sir., &c.

[*No signature.*]

His Excell^{y} Govr Trumbull.

RALPH POMEROY TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

May it please your Excellency & the Honb^{le} Council of Safety:

The important posts of New London and Groton are destitute of every thing belonging to the Quarter Master General's department; and estimates or arrangements from the Commander in Chief, or from the Quarter Master General, have not been made for supplying them, and no proper orders have issued from any other quarter; some recent requisitions have come to hand from Cap^{t} Guy Richards, A. D. Q. M., which cannot at present consistantly be comply'd with. Such orders as your Excellency shall give in this matter shall be most chearfully obeyed and executed by your Excellency's most obedient & humble servant,

Ralph Pomeroy,

Dep. Quar. Master for the State of Connecticut.

Hartford, 15th Oct^{r}, 1781.

His Excellency Governour Trumbull
and the Honb^{le} Council of Safety.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelphia, Oct^{r} 16th, 1781.

Sir, — Congress have this day received a letter from General Washington of the 6th instant, enclosing one from General Green of the 11th of last month, giving a par-

ticular account of the action of the 8th of Septemr, about 60 miles from Charlestown, wherein General Green obtained a victory over the British troops. He took 500 prisoners, and supposes that the enemy's loss in killed & wounded was not less than 600; they also found about 1000 muskets left by the enemy. Our loss was 138 killed, 375 wounded, and 41 missing. Officers killed, 1 Lt. Colonel, 1 Major, 6 Captains & 8 Subalterns; wounded 5 Lt. Colonels, 13 Captains and 25 Subalterns. Our officers & privates, both of the Continental troops & militia, behaved with the greatest bravery. The action was obstinate on both sides. Preparations had been making for an attack upon the enemy at Virginia, which was to commence the 7th instant. Some accounts have been lately received from Europe by the Minister of France & communicated to Congress, which will be officially communicated to the several States in a short time. I wish that no hints of this kind be published from my letter.

The estimates for supplies are nearly compleated and will be transmitted as soon as possible. Connecticut is not yet represented in Congress. Enclosed is this day's paper, but it does not contain much news.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient & humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

P. S. Admiral Digby arrived at N. York with three ships of the line some time ago, & there has since arrived one 40 gun ship & 3 frigates; by the best accounts their fleet was considerably disabled in the action with Count De Grasse.

Indorsed: 16th Octo, 1781. R. Sherman, Esqr, *de* Genl Green's Battle 8th Septr a Virginia, 6th instt, recd 30th instt.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 19th Octo, 1781.

HONR SIR, — I feel a peculiar pleasure in being able to inform you that Lord Cornwallis surrendered himself & army to the American arms on the 18th. This happy event has taken place, at an earlier period than was expected, but not the less welcome from that circumstance.

The morning of the 17th opened a correspondence, which commenced on the part of his Lordship, a copy of which is inclosed, & which led to the final definitive terms of capitulation; a copy of which also is herewith sent you.

Our killed & wounded during the siege has been much less than might have been expected, not more than [*blank*]. The loss of the enemy is computed more considerable, amounting to [*blank*].

A very ineffectual defence has been made by his Lordship, taking the opinion of those who are better judges of sieges & defences than I am.

Only one small sortie was attempted by the enemy, & that attended with very simple consequences on either side, — such as the thrusting the point of their bayonets into 6 or 7 pieces of our artillery, which by a rapid & precipitate movement they gained for a moment, and being instantly repulsed as soon as our covering party arrived, with the loss of eight or ten men killed of the enemy, & as many more made prisoners. Our cannon in the batteries of the 2d parallel had scarcely opened upon the enemy when his Lordship's first letter was sent out.

What alarmed them perhaps as much as our second approach was the carrying by assault two redoubts of great importance to their defence, & which uncovered almost their whole left flank, & nearly enfiladed the whole of the town. In these redoubts we made prisoners of about 73 men, officers included; a number were

killed ; 2 pieces of artillery were taken with some hand grenades &c.

I write in great haste, which I beg may be my excuse if I omit any circumstance which you could wish more particularly specified. [*No signature.*]

SILAS DEANE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

GHENT, 21st Octo, 1781.

GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

SIR, — The critical situation of our public affairs forces me to address you, & through you my fellow citizens of Connecticut. Though persecuted, & in effect exiled by Congress, I cannot be indifferent to the fate of my country. The views of France become every day more evident, & they are no other than to humble Great Brittain at our expence. Spain, whilst at war with England, wishes to save appearances, and to employ the forces of her enemy on our continent, but she has not, nor will under any circumstances, acknowledge our independancy ; of all the nations in Europe Spain is the most interested to prevent our becoming independant of any European control. Remembrance of past injuries, and the desire of revenge, have armed that nation against England, & whilst we employ more than one half the British force, she hopes to regain the territory lost in former wars, and to see us reduced so low that, whither in the end we become dependant on France or England, she will have nothing to fear from us for ages to come. There does not appear any disposition in any of the powers of Europe to follow the example of France, & to acknowledge our independance. The league against England is indeed a formidable one, but history furnishes us with many instances of leagues equally powerful

* This letter is also printed, with some unimportant variations, in the Deane Papers, published by the New York Historical Society, vol. iv. pp. 509-514. For notice of Silas Deane, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 252 *n.* — EDS.

against a single State, but with no one in which they have finally succeeded. This merits our attention. Nothing can be more absurd than to imagine that the powers in Europe should encourage, from other than interested motives, a revolt against a government infinitely milder than their own, or that absolute monarchs should cordially approve of the doctrine of the natural equality of men. The campaign for this year is nearly finished in Europe on the part of France & Spain, & has been as ridiculously trifling & indecisive as the preceeding ones. The English fleet is at sea, its object is to intercept the Spanish flota, or to releive Minorca; if it succeed in the first, of which there is but too much probability, the effects will be sensibly felt in Spain; the other is of less importance; but however the war may terminate, we shall find ourselves at the close of it loaded with debt & absolutely dependant on the victorious party. If the course of nature has not changed, but if similar causes continue to produce similar effects, no nation was ever in a more dangerous situation than what America is in at this time. Happy for us (if we are wise), it is still in our power to avoid the danger, & to establish the peace, liberty, & safety of our country on the most sure & solid basis. That we must by continuing the war, and rejecting all overtures for peace & reconciliation with Great Brittain, become unconditionally dependant on France or Great Brittain, is a truth as demonstrable as any proposition whatever. If Great Brittain becomes so reduced as to receive the law from France & Spain, though it will be at our expence that this is done, yet they will claim the whole merit & all the advantages resulting from it. The power of Great Brittain reduced, there will not remain any in Europe to hold the ballance against the house of Bourbon; and France able to dictate the law to G. Brittain can do the same to us, & in a more imperious manner & with greater safety. France in good policy will

manage her conduct towards Great Brittain in such circumstances so as not to offend and alarm the rest of Europe, but she can be influenced by no such motives in her conduct towards us. We shall be deeply in debt to her for money actually borrowed & supplies of different kinds, and France will charge the whole expence of the war to our accompt & make demands if not on our purses, on our gratitude therefor. France has an army in our country at her pay and at her orders, she is calculating to increase that army to twenty or even to thirty thousand men: if the history of different nations afforded us one instance in which a people preserved their liberty & independance after admitting a superior army of foreign mercenaries into their country to fight their battles at the pay & devotion of a foreign monarch, we might have some small ground to hope that what has happened might happen again; but the history of the world produces no such instance, nor is it possible it ever should so long as men & their passions continue to be the same that they ever have been. We have a treaty, it is true, which guarantees our liberty & independance, but with whom is that treaty? with the very power which will be interested to break it or to explain it away. No man acquainted with the past & present transactions in Europe can be weak enough to presume that any power will ever regard a treaty longer than it is for their real, or supposed, interest to do so. It is at all times in the power of the King of France to make or dissolve treaties, with this difference from limited monarchs that he is not accountable for his conduct. I have not therefore gone too far in asserting that if France & Spain come off victorious, that we shall be absolutely dependant on one or both of them. If England, on the other hand, continues to make head against all her enemies, & by some fortunate event of war or by the interposition of foreign powers, which is the most probable, forces France &

Spain to a peace on her own terms, we must become unconditionally dependant on & subject to England. The present moment is therefore of infinite importance to us. We are now of great consequence in a treaty of general peace. We shall be of none at all, or at best a meer article to be set off or discounted in the ballancing the general accompt. At present we may obtain the repeal of all the Acts of Parliament obnoxious to us, a perpetual exemption from all taxes save what we impose on ourselves, freedom of legislation & of commerce. What more shall we gain by independance? will the name of sovereign, independant States, counterballance the miseries & distress of our country at the present and the future burthens to which it must be subjected? this is a serious question, & I put it to a serious & thinking people. I am confident that there is not in the world a more free and uncorrupted Assembly than that of Connecticut, none more attentive to the freedom, ease, & happiness of the people they represent, and to their true interests in every respect. Can such an Assembly on serious reflection consent to load themselves & their constituents with taxes nearly equal to the whole of their income? The amount of our share of the public debt will not fall short of two millions sterling, if the war is continued another year. The interest of this, the expences of general government, that is of Congress, of their Ministers, Agents & Consuls in foreign parts, of their Ministers & Boards at home, of a fleet, essentially necessary to the existence of our commerce, & the half pay to our officers & soldiers, will amount to nearly three shillings on the pound perpetual tax. Our Ministers and Agents in Europe cost us at this time more than twenty thousand pounds sterling annually, though we have only one, received and acknowledged as such. The Secretaries of these inefficient, unacknowledged Ministers receive one thousand sterling annually, which is a perfect

sinecure, for whilst their principals cannot act, they most certainly can have nothing, either to copy or to record. From this sample, & from Congress having uniformly disposed of these places among themselves, we may make some estimate of our future civil list, and it will not be too hardy to say that it will, if this system is pursued, be as great a source of corruption & as burthensome as the civil list of England or the pensions of France. The Parliam^t^ is summoned on business the 27^th^ of next month; it is generally beleived that a secret treaty has some months since been signed between Russia & England, & that it will be announced at the opening of the next session. However that may be, there is certainly a good understanding between the two powers, & it appears probable that in the coming winter both the Emperor of Germany and the Empress of Russia will interpose their mediation in more direct & positive terms, than in the last. By the appointment of delegates by Congress to attend the Congress at Vienna, I see that the hopes of my countrymen were sanguine on that subject; they ought to be undeceived on that, as well as on many others. The Emperor offered, & England accepted of, the mediation on the express condition that the affairs of America should not be subjected to any determination of the proposed Congress; this not being assented to by France the affair fell to the ground, it will probably be revived this winter. The great objects of England this winter will be to make a general peace, or a separate one with Holland, & to get that war off their hands. If they succeed in either the consequence will be much the same to us, if we neglect the present favorable & important moment; I am not disgusted with men, though I am extremely so with measures in France, & I have written to you not with confidence that my sentiments will be adopted, but from the impulse of duty, and that this letter may, by its being made a public one, remain on your public files, to con-

demn, or justify me on some future day. If my opinions are illfounded, still my intention is good; but if events justify my predictions, this letter will justify me in the eyes of posterity for having given the alarm in season, whither it shall be attended to, or not. I have sent on my acc^{ts} to Congress, by which it will appear that there is a ballance due to me of more than three hundred thousand livres tournois. They have by design or inattention prevented my having my acc^{ts} audited or payed; from the general tenor of their conduct towards me, I am authorised to put the most unfavorable construction on it, but I will not enter on the disagreeable subject further than to appeal to the justice & humanity of my countrymen, to prevent the final ruin of one who has faithfully served them, & who now hazards the loss of every thing in venturing to undeceive them. I shall probably pass the winter in this place, or in the neighborhood, commercial objects, as well as œconomy, urge me to it. This will go by Cap^{t} Trowbridge of New Haven. I shall improve evry direct opportunity to write to you. I have the honor to be with respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} & very hum: serv^{t}.

SILAS DEANE.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 21st Oct^{o}, 1781. Silas Dean, Esq^{r}, his Sentiments on Public Affairs, rec^{d} 14th April seq.

ROGER SHERMAN AND RICHARD LAW TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct^{r} 25th, 1781.

SIR, — We have the honor now to transmit to your Excellency an official account of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and the army under his command. The dispatches from General Washington were received yesterday morning, and at two o'clock in the afternoon Congress

went in a body to the Lutheran Church, where divine service (suitable to the occasion) was performed by the Reverend M^r^ Duffield, one of the Chaplains of Congress. The Supreme Executive Council & Assembly of this State, the Minister of France & his Secretary, and a great number of the citizens attended. In the evening the city was illuminated. This great event we hope will prove a happy presage of a compleat reduction of the British forces in these States, and prepare the way for the establishment of an honorable peace. We mentioned in our last that M^r^ McKean had resigned the chair. He was by a unanimous vote yesterday morning requested to resume it and act as President until the first Monday in Nov^r^ next, which he has accepted.

We have the honor to be, with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient &
very humble servants.

ROGER SHERMAN.
RICHARD LAW.

HIS EXCELLENCY.

Indorsed: 25^th^ Oct^o^, 1781. R. Sherman, R. Law, Esq^rs^, Delegates, *de* Capitulation Enclosed, rec^d^ 12^th^ Nov^r^ vespere.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE BRITISH TROOPS AT FORT GRISWOLD, 6^TH^ SEP^T^, 1781.*

The British troops after they had landed at Groton point, they marched up within a small distance of the Fort under cover of a woods upon an adjacint hill, when they sent a flag and demanded the surrendery of the Fort to his Britanice Majesty's armes, which Col^o^ Ledyard re-

* Stephen Hempsted, the writer of this Brief Account, was born in New London, Conn., May 6, 1754, and served in the American army almost continuously during the War of the Revolution. In 1811 he removed to St. Louis, Missouri, where he died in 1831. When upward of seventy years of age he wrote, from recollection, a much longer Narrative, which was printed in the "Missouri Republican," in 1826. See Battle of Groton Heights and its Centennial, pp. 47–60. — EDS.

fused them, being determined to defend it to the last extreamitey; when their flag returned back to them they then advanced from the woods towards the Fort, and then we began our attack with our cannon which did great execution, as their dead and wounded spoke for them. They came on with vigour and resolution untill they had got under cover of the walls of the Fort from our cannon, which made them of no use to us, we then repaired to our small armes and lancesses with a resolution to repulse the enemy if possible, which we maintained for some time, when we had the misfortune to have the hallards of our colours shot away, which, the enemy thinking we had struck to them, gave them double resolution in scaling the walls, which they affected, but not without the loss of many men. Then they wantonly went to shoting and baygoneting of us, tho quarters was continually cry'd for from every one, but to no purpose untill several of their officers, endow'd with more humanity then the rest, got between us & their soldiers, and with much adieu ceased their fireing and baygonet on us which was then left alive, the greater part of the garrison was put to death after they got in to Fort; we that were then alive were paraded before the barracks untill they had picked up their dead and wounded round the Fort, destroy'd the cannon, small armes, &c., and then the commanding officer order'd us down to the shore were they were to embark, but as many of the wounded could not walk down he order'd the soldiers to take the horses from their arttillery, which had then got up to the Fort, to be tackel'd in our waggon in the Fort and carry us down, which some soldiers tryed to affect but could not, not knowing how to rig the horses in the waggon; the officer order'd them to draw it out by hand or he should blow us all up in the Fort if they did not get us out soon; they then went to put us in the waggon, myself being the first, & then Cap^{t} Shapley & M^{r} Nathan

Moor, the rest that were in the waggon I dont remember who they were. The soldiers drew the waggon out of the Fort to the top of the hill, when chain'd one of the fore wheels of the waggon with a small chain belonging to the horse tackling. They no sooner started the waggon than the chain broke & they let the waggon go amain down the hill, which is very steep, and they with the greater part of the troops then paraded on the hill a hazzawing to see the seane, but did not fire on us as ben reported; the seane was dreadful which none can discribe but those unfortunate men that felt it. We all lived to reach the foot of the hill were the waggon brought up against an apple tree; we were then all paraded again on the bank untill they got ready to embark. They took out forty that was well & slightily wounded which they carried prisoners to N. York, then taking the names of all them they left behind, their promising not to take up armes untill exchanged, they left us to take care of ourselves as well as we could. This being as just and as correct an account as I am able to write, haveing ben so weak and low in health ever since the battle, being scarce able to write this in a manner or form in which your Excelency may gain any intelligence, by

Your Excelency's most obedient, humble servant.

STEPHEN HEMPSTED,
Serj^t Matross.

NEW LONDON, 30th Oct^r, 1781.

His Excelency Govenor TRUMBULL.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW HAVEN, November 7th, 1781.

HONOUR'D SIR, — Notwithstanding the short time since I left home, I think it my duty to write to you by M^r

* For notice of Jabez Huntington, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 206 *n.* — EDS.

Little. I arrived at this place on Wednesday night. I did not ride far before I overtook a couple of gentleman who were riding to N. Haven, whose company I had. I met with no trouble on my journey, but got in safe. As it was very inconvenient to live out of College in this season, because of the coldness of the weather, I moved into College with the advice of the President & went into commons. I live with General Spencer's son & M^{r} Lee's son of Salisbury, & very happily too. On Monday last, we rejoyced here on the reduction of Lord Cornwallis, & the buildings fronting the green (together with the State house) were illuminated in the evening. I have no news to write you, but there is a story that the infamous traitor Arnold is taken; but it is not believed. I congratulate you on the happy event which happened at the southward. Give my compliments to all enquiring friends. Excuse bad writing, being in a great hurry, so I must conclude.

Your affectionate & dutiful grandson.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON.

Indorsed: 7th Novem^{r}, 1781. Master Jabez Huntington, *de* his Journey, Illumination, his Situation, &c., rec^{d} p M^{r} Little, 9th ins^{t}.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(Circular). PHILADELPHIA, 12th Nov^{r}, 1781.

SIR, — Congress some time since called upon the different States to make returns of the damage done by the

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* Robert R. Livingston was born in New York City Nov. 27, 1746, graduated at King's (now Columbia) College in 1765, and studied law. In 1775 he was sent as a delegate to the Continental Congress, and the next year he was chosen one of the committee for draughting the Declaration of Independence. From 1777 to 1801 he was Chancellor of the State of New York, and during a part of the time he was also a member of Congress. He was Secretary for Foreign Affairs from 1781 to 1783. In 1801 he was sent minister to France, and had an important share in the negotiations which resulted in the purchase of Louisiana. He died in Clermont, N. Y., Feb. 26, 1813. See Lanman's Biographical Annals, p. 261; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. pp. 744, 745. — EDS.

enemy within each of them by the wanton destruction of property: no measures that I can learn have as yet been taken to ascertain such damage tho', as your Excellency will easily conceive, it may become an important object of enquiry, whenever a treaty shall be set on foot for a general pacification, or be made to answer valuable purposes during the war, by shewing our vindictive enemy in his true light to the nations of Europe. In this view, I think it my duty to endeavour to collect them, and you will, Sir, I am persuaded, take the necessary measures to send as soon as possible returns from the State over which you preside. I could wish to have the damage (particularly that to real property) ascertained by the affidavits of people of known character, & duplicate copies of such affidavits transmitted to my office under the great seal of your State, & if possible accompanied with a short recital of each transaction, so that it may at once appear whether the injuries were such as the laws of war justified, or whether they originated only in the malice & cruelty of a remorseless enemy. Your Excellency will oblige me and serve the public by transmitting to me accounts of every occurrence in which the United States are materially interested which may arise within your government, or which you may derive from your correspondents abroad.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
with great respect & esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient &
most humble servant.
Robt R. Livingston.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq.
Governor of the State of Connecticut.

Indorsed: 12th Nov., 1781. Robt R. Livingston, *de* apprisal of damages, &c., recd 26th instt vespere.

RICHARD LAW AND OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov^{r} 23^{d}, 1781.

SIR, — We are honored with your favour of the 8^{t} instant p^{r} Brown. M^{r} Wolcott arrived here the 14th. There are now nine States represented in Congress. In the arrangment of the Treasury Department it is provided that the Financier recommend the number of Auditors requisite, which he has not yet done, but as soon as he makes report on that head, they will be appointed, and doubt not it will be thought necessary they repair to the respective States to liquidate their acc^{ts}. The requisition for supplies is forwarded by the Financier, with his letter thereon. Thô our successes have been truly glorious & important the present year, yet it is of the utmost consequence that we suffer them not to slacken our exertions in making preparations for the insuing campaign, as that alone will put us on a respectable footing, either for negotiation or war. Congress have a Com^{tee} now out upon the subject of what number of troops is necessary & apportioning the quota of each State. The French fleet, it is sayd, left the Bay about the 6th instant, destined, it is conjectured, for the West Indies, and the troops belonging to the eastern States are on their rout back to the North River. Whatever is official is or will be duly transmitted to your Excellency, from the respective offices. Have not to add, but remain, with the highest sentiments of esteem & respect, your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humb^{le} serv^{ts}.

RICH^{D} LAW.
OLIVER WOLCOTT.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 28th Nov^{r}, 1781. Law & Wolcott, Esq^{rs}, Delegates, *de* sundry, rec^{d} 11th Dec. seq. p M^{r} Brown.

THE COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

WILLIAMSBURGH, Dec^{r} 15th, 1781.

SIR, — I have only received to day your Excellency's letter. It is with the greatest pleasure that I see the sentiments of gratitude you entertain for the assistance of the land and sea forces sent by the King my master in this country, to concur, under G^{al} Washington's orders to one of the most important operations to the happiness of his allies. The Count de Grasse is gone, but I am his caution that we have the same sentiments for the execution of the orders of his Majesty, which orders will have always their birth in his faithfullness, his zeal and attachment to the American cause.

I am, with respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

LE C^{T} DE ROCHAMBEAU.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 15th December, 1781. Le Compte de Rochambeau, Answer to mine, on Congratulations. rec^{d} 12th Jan^{y} seq.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut.

Private. PHILADELPHIA, 19 Dec^{r}, 1781.

SIR, — Your Excellency will soon receive the requisition of Congress upon the State to compleat their battalions agreably to the last military establish^{t}, and also that the recruits be mustered in one or more places in the State, and supported by it in their march to the army. The address to the Legislatures pointing out the necessity of complying with the pecuniary and military aid required, will also be received.

The Superintendant of Finance is endeavouring to con-

tract for supplies for the stationary troops. I hear that he has contracted for supplies for the garrison at West Point that they shall be furnished at $9\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* for each ration in Pennsylvania money. He also intends as farr as possible to obviate the necessity of maintaining issuing posts.

The mode for setlling State accounts is not yet determined upon, it is under the consideration of a Committee.

An Act ascertaining consular powers is nearly finished, but can have no operation till it shall be agreed to by France.

A plan for reducing a number of officers, or rather putting them upon half pay, who are considered as supernumerary, especially the general staff, is in contemplation, and will probably take effect.

Our latest accounts from the southward are that the enemy have abandoned their post at Willmington and all their out posts in S. Carolina, that Gov^r^ Leslie has gone to Charestown, but that he has not carryed any troops.

I hope that our late successes nor a dependence on others will induce us to relax our military exertions, as the experience of ages must convince us that an enemy in every circumstance is to be vigilantly watched and strenuously opposed, and that a nation who rely upon the support or yeild themselves to the guidance of another are in the utmost danger.

M^r^ Law is well. But as nothing has occurred which renders an official letter necessary I have taken the liberty to give an account of the affairs of the day for your Excellency's personal information. In doing which I ought to have mentioned that Gen^l^ Washington is yet in this city, but I am told that he intends soon to go to the Hudson.

I am, with the highest esteem,

Your Excellency's most obed^t^ servant.

Gov^r^ TRUMBULL. OLIVER WOLCOTT.

P. S. I have sent to your Excellency a stating of the claims of the Indiana company, which may not only be a subject of amusement, but afford some useful information, if the Susquehannah cause shall be brought to a tryal.

Indorsed: 19th Decemr, 1781. Ol. Wolcott, Esqr, Private, *de* sundry, with enclosures. recd 2nd Janry seq.

EZRA STILES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. Honored by the Hon. President Huntington, Judge Shearman.

Yale College, Decr. 28th, 1781.

Sir, — Last week I received the letter you did me the honor to write by Judge Huntington. I beg leave to mingle my gratitude to Heaven, with your Excellency's pious reflexions upon the wonderful ordering of Divine Providence in the capture of Lord Cornwallis. May we all be led to discern the hand of the Most High in controlling & bringing about events & revolutions in the political world; and particularly to see & acknowledge & give glory to God for the great favorable events of the last campaign.

Your amiable grandson with us is going on in the course of the academic studies; and as far I perceive conducts well. He will get the better of the little volatilities of youth, none of which, however, have I been called to notice. He is well situated with studious roommates. It was his own desire to be brought into College. He is of good parts & capable, by application, of making a fine scholar. I trust he is hitherto free from the vices. We have a large College of 225 undergrad̃ students, and have usually had 200 & more present during this term now nearly expiring. We have had as great a degree of regularity & applicn to study as may be ex-

pected from such a collection of juvenile fire. There is a select religious meet^{g} on Sat^{y} even^{gs} of 25 to between 30 & 40, which I recom̃end & greatly rejoyce in, as I hope they have the presence of JESUS, & may diffuse the complexion of virtue thro' College. May the blessed God ever have your Excell^{y} under his holy keeping. With the most honorable respect, I am, Sir,

Your Excell^{ys} most obed^{t} serv^{t}.

EZRA STILES.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut.

Private.

PHILADELPHIA, 8th Jan^{ry}, 1782.

SIR, — The most important matters which have passed in Congress since my last letter to your Excellency, of the 19th ultimo, has been an ordinance incorporating the Society for establishing a National Bank. This had been some time ago promised them, and as their first subscription was compleated, it was tho't proper to comply with their application.

Congress have likewise passed two Acts; the one that the Commander in Chief ascertain to the Secretary of War the number of general officers necessary for actual service; that thereupon the Secretary nominally order that number into service, and that the rest of them shall be considered as having retired upon half pay. The other Act is, that all officers commanding seperate cores not in the line of any State shall after the 20 of this month retire upon half pay, their cores will thereupon be incorporated with the lines.

A stop for the present is put to any exchange of prisoners. The enemy have made it a preliminary that L^{d} Cornwallis (who it is supposed has gone for England) shall in the first instance be exchanged. This has not been

agreed to, as an exchange might otherwise have been properly made. What has induced S^r^ Harry Clinton to make this an absolute condition is a matter of conjecture only. Our people in captivity at the southward will suffer most by this delay, but the sanguinary conduct of L^d^ Cornwallis in those countries induced the gentlemen belonging there not to desire the exchange of their people upon such terms. Perhaps if his Lordship could be considered as divested of a disposition to commit the most wanton cruelty, no solid objection could lye against his exchange, on account of his military abilities.

We have no news from the southward so late as that published under the N. London head. Probably about ten days ago about 1200 men embarked from N. York for their southern posts.

As no official letter is necessary, I therefore write for your Excellency's personal information of such matters as have occurred since my last.

I am, very respectfully,

Your Excellency's most obed^t^ servant.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

P. S. Mr. Law is well.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

P. S. The Superintendant of the Finances has reported a plan for the liquidating of the accounts of the States with the U. States, and proposed a mode by a special convention of the several States, by special appointment of members by their legislatures, to ascertain the ratio of each State of the unfunded debt,— the accounts due from the U. States to each, to be liquidated by a commissioner sent to each State to be approved by the State to whom sent. This report will probably be considered in a few days.

The affairs of Vermont have called the attention of Congress. Nothing yet has been done in this affair. Perhaps the former Act of Congress admitting them by

implication as an independent State will be recognized and made explicit, and a time limited for their complyance, which if not agreed to by them effectually steps may be taken to give peace to the northern frontiers.

O. W.

Indorsed : 8th Jany, 1782. O. Wolcott, Esqr, Philada, *de* General Officers. Exchange. Ld Cornwallis, recd 20th inst.

OLIVER WOLCOTT AND RICHARD LAW TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelpa, 21t Janry, 1782.

Sir, — We have been honoured with your Excellency's letter of the first instant, and would observe with regard to the mode of settling the publick accounts, that the subject upon a report has been recommitted, and which has not yet been again reported upon. One great dificulty which attends this business is, by what rate the certificates given for the old money shall be ascertained. A uniform rule to operate thro the States, when it is well known that the exchange has been so extremely different, would be apparently unjust, and wheither the schales adopted by the particular States, in case they had been extended to the termination of the old currency, would in all cases be an equitable one, is not altogether clear. But we apprehend that, when the principles upon which the accounts of the several States against the United States shall be ascertained, one or more commissioners will be appointed for each State to liquidate those accounts. This measure not only appears to us to be the most proper one, but, so farr as we can judge by the observations made upon this subject, will probably be the opinion of Congress. Another matter has been referred to the same Committee, to adopt a mode by which the unfunded debts of the United States shall be apportioned

out to the several States. By the funded debt is meant all foreign debts, loan office certificates, and debts liquidated and entered on the books of the Treasurer. Wheither this last measure will be agreed to is uncertain, perhaps it will be tho't that the relative value of the States, being so very precarious by the operations of the war, it would be too early a period to ascertain the respective quotas.

With regard to what your Excellency mentions respecting specific supplies being accepted towards the pecuniary aid required of the State, we would inform, that the Superintendant of the Finances tells us that he has wrote to your Excellency upon this subject. But yet it is proper for us to observe that he acquainted us that all the troops of the United States, except the southern army and the post at Boston and perhaps one or two more, were now fed by contract, and that he expected to continue to supply them in this manner, and that he had also got winter cloathing for the whole of them; that his veiws were to furnish all supplies by contract, upon what he apprehended would be an obvious principle of ecconomy. He appeared to be clearly impressed with the conviction that the fruits of the industry of this country, if reasonably applyed, might furnish in specie the sums called for, and that the owners of provisions might and could much better turn them into money than the publick, but he told us that he would advise the contractors and clothiers to take such supplies of the State as they should want, in case they might have them as cheap as they might be otherwise procured. We do not apprehend that it will be in our power to effect any alteration as to this general system; if it shall be done it must be thro' the medium of the Superintendant. We shewed him your Excellency's letter, by which, and our own observations, he is fully possessed of the subject.

We also judge it proper to observe to your Excellency,

that Mr. Robert Morrice, having a few days ago rec^{d} a letter from M^{r} Silas Deane, acknowledging that he had wrote him a letter of the 10^{t} of June last, which has been printed, wherein M^{r} Deane said he had fully communicated to him his opinion in regard to our publick affairs, M^{r} Morrice considered it as his duty to transmit the letter which he had rec^{d} to Congress. M^{r} Deane discovered by his letter a pretty deal of resentment that his accounts had not been settled. His remarks in regard to the conducting of the American war were similar to what had been made by him in his published letters; with this letter he transmitted his acc^{o} against the U. States to M^{r} Morrice, the ballance of which according to our recollection was 343,000 livres. He informed M^{r} Morrice that he could not send the vouchers, but supposed that at least a considerable sum might be advanced to him on his account. The day after this M^{r} Morrice sent two letters of M^{r} Deane's to Congress, the one directed to his brother Barnabas, the other to M^{r} Thomas Mumford; these letters M^{r} Morrice rec^{d} of a person who took them of M^{r} Deane in France, with a very particular charge to destroy them in case he should find himself in danger of being taken by the enemy. But upon his arrival, finding that M^{r} Deane's political character lay under a criminal imputation, he judged it proper to deliver them to M^{r} Morrice. Congress directed the President to break the seals and if upon inspection the letters were of a private nature to send them forward, otherwise to communicate them. The letters were communicated and thereupon were ordered to be retained by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and such communications made of them as might most effectually obviate the mischeif which it was supposed M^{r} Deane might be inclined to do the United States. Upon this measure's being agreed to, and which we think was a proper one, we supported a motion that the Secretary of Foreign Affairs should be

directed to send copys of those letters with the prooffs of their authenticity to your Excellency. Our veiw in this was that as there was not only matters in those letters which respected the particular interests of the gentlemen to whom they were directed, and who ought therefore to be acquainted with them, but also as M^r^ Deane belonged to the State and had fallen under suspicions of a most criminal nature, it was proper that the State should be able to judge of the evidence to justify an imputation of this kind. We shall observe nothing more upon this disagreable subject than that the determinations of Congress in regard to those letters were made without either passion or any dissension.

We think it not improper to mention to your Excellency an affair which, altho it does not immediately respect the State, yet as some seasonable advice to the people of Vermont to attend to a conduct consistent with their own wellfare and the publick peace, instead of pursuing measures which immediately lead to the disturbance of both, might have a happy effect, we beg leave to observe that the non complyance of these people with the Act of Congress eventually acknowledging them as an independent State, was as unexpected to Congress as the reasons which they gave for their refusal was unsatisfactory. These people consider themselves under an obligation, as they say, to have an adjudication of the claims of the people with whom they have lately connected themselves. But they would have done well to have considered that Congress have explicitly guaranteed these recent claims to N. Hamshire and N. York; and that if a people may as by right claim an exemption from a jurisdiction under which they have been long settled, till such claims can be adjudicated, it will at any time be in the power of a few factious people to produce the utmost confusion and dismemberment in those States. Congress have had it in contemplation to recognise their former act in their fa-

vour, and to declare that if the people of this district shall within two months accede to the confederation upon the terms proposed, that then they shall upon their signing the confederation be admitted into the Union, and that in case they shall refuse that they shall be reduced under one or more of the confederate States. Wheither this measure as proposed will be adopted is uncertain. But doubtless measures to put matters upon a different footing in the northern frontier will be judged necessary. It appears very strange that this people will not now accept of what they have for a long time been endeavouring to obtain. This perseverance in a mode of conduct which is considered as so very improper may, unless immediately rectified, subject them to difficulties which they do not seem in the least to apprehend. We have no news of any importance to communicate to your Excellency. We are, with the highest respect and esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL. RICH^{D} LAW.

P. S. Your Excellency's letter incloseing that of M^{r} Bills' we immediately on receipt thereof lay'd before Congress, who referrd the same to Com^{tee} appointed to take up that subject and to confer with General Washington thereon, who have the same now under consideration & as soon as they shall report thereon will acquaint you therewith.

Indorsed: 21st Jan^{ry}, 1782. Wolcott & Law, Esq^{rs}, Delegates, *de* sundry matters, rec^{d} 31st ins^{t} p Brown.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PHILADELPHIA, 22^{d} Jan^{y}, 1782.

SIR, — I do myself the honor to enclose certified copies of two letters from Silas Deane, which serve in some measure to authenticate those that have been published

in his name, & strongly mark such a change in his sentiments & principles as is worthy the attention of the State of which he is a citizen. The originals are lodged in this office, to which your Excellency may at any time apply, if such copies should be required as would amount to legal evidence. I have also enclosed a copy of an affidavit of Mr. Marshal to prove the identity of the letters & his having received them from Silas Deane. Some time since I did myself the honor to write to you relative to the damage done by the enemy in your State, & have not been as yet favoured with an answer. Your Excellency will easily see the propriety of keeping up a correspondence with this office, since there are many inferior objects which escape the general attention of Congress, which it may be extremely useful to detail in our negociations. Such for instance as an authentic acc^{t} of the cruelties committed by the British at New Haven, since they could not but have some effect in increasing the detestation of them which their conduct ought to inspire in Europe. Nor is it of less moment to be minutely informed by every State of their resources for carrying on the war, the means used to call out those resources, the temper & disposition of the people with respect to them. With a view of obtaining these from you at your leisure, I have taken the liberty to open this correspondence with your Excellency. I persuade myself you will not put the trouble it may give you in competition with the slightest advantage that our country may obtain from it, and I shall in return give you from time to time such European news as we may receive here, which I conceive will contribute to your amusement, or to the advantage of your State.

And as I have nothing positive at present let me inform you, of what I would wish every State to know, that we have not as yet any intelligence that leads to a speedy peace, so that we have every reason to expect another

campaign, & a campaign too which will call for our greatest exertions.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

ROB^{T} R. LIVINGSTON.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 22nd Jan^{ry}, 1782. Office of Foreign Affairs, *de* sundry, enclosing M^{r} Dean's letters, rec^{d} 31st ins^{t}, p Brown.

JABEZ BOWEN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Gov^{r} of the State of Connecticutt.

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 12, 1782.

SIR, — At a late meeting of our Gen^{l} Assembly taxes to the amount of twenty four thousand pounds lawfull money weir order'd to be assessed on the inhabitants of this State, six thousand pounds in cash to be paid by the 1st of April to be at the disposal of the Financier, and the same sum in produce to be raised as soon as we are informed that he will receive it, in part of our proportion of the eight million tax. We have also voted the sum of twelve thousand pounds to be paid into the Treasury in six months for the use of the State. We have resolved to raise 200 for three years or during the war by inlistment and offer'd a bounty of one hundred silver dollars. The same day that our Assembly broke up we received General Washington's letter on the subject of recruiting the army, with a return of the deficiency of our redgment amounting to 259 men, also the General's letter respecting the great necessity of fully complying with the requisitions of Congress and the Financier for our full proportion of the Continental tax. Our redgment was

* For notice of Jabez Bowen, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 259 *n.* — EDS.

full the last campaign save about 25 men, so that we have lost more than one third of our men who weir inlisted for three years or the war.

As our Assembly will meet again in about a fortnight to reconsider of the foregoing matters could wish to be informed, what steps the Assembly of Connecticutt have adopted for complying with the requisitions for men and money for the year 1782.

I am, with sentiments of esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient and
verry humb. servant.

JABEZ BOWEN.

Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Gov^r Bowen, 12^th Feb^y, 1782, *de* supplies of men and money, 15^th & answered 20^th.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JABEZ BOWEN.*

LEBANON, 20^th Feb^y, 1782.

SIR, — I had the honor to receive your letter of the 12^th inst., requesting to be inform'd of the measures adopted by this State for complying with the late requisitions for men and money.

Our deficiency of men, according to the General's return is 1505, which number we have order'd to be recruited by the respective towns, according to a detail proportion'd to each, by the first day of April next; returns are directed to be made on the fifth day of that month from each town to the com̃and^g officer of the reg^t of militia in which they are included, who, in case of any deficiency, is directed to complete his members by peremptory immediate detachment.

The proportion of the national supplies assigned to us is 747,196 dollars. We have made provision for the first

* Printed from a copy on the blank leaf of Governor Bowen's letter. — EDS.

quarterly payment of 200,000 dollars to be made on the first day of April next, by laying a tax of three pence on the pound of our list payable on that day, & calculated to produce 66,000 dollars, — the remaining 134,000 we raise by the sale of so much provisions, already collected upon a former tax, and which has not yet been applied.

The ways and means for the remaining three quarterly payments, amounting to 547,196 dollars, are referred to the next session of the Assembly.

I am, &c.

Hon^ble^ Jabez Bowen. J. T——LL.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Circular. Office of Foreign Affairs, Philadelphia, 19th Feb^y^, 1782.

Sir, — Where a government is composed of independent States, united not by the power of a sovereign, but by their common interest, the executive departments form a center of communication between each State & their chief council, & are so far links of the chain which should bind them together as they render to each similar views of great national objects, & introduce unanimity in their measures for the establishment of general interests. A mistaken idea of our own importance to other nations, of their attachment to us, & of the weakness of our common enemy, having lulled us into a very imprudent security, I beg leave to state to your Excellency the information last received from Europe.

Our success in this important war, under the favor of Heaven, must be built upon the weakness of our enemy, the strength & perseverance of her foes in Europe, and our own exertions. It is an undeniable fact that Britain has not in the course of the last campaign gained any advantage of her enemies, but on the contrary has seen their fleets ride triumphant in the seas she proudly calls

her own, & an army in which she placed her fondest hopes made captive. But on the other hand, we are compelled to admit that she has met with no such reverse of fortune as materially to debilitate her, or weaken her resources for another campaign. Her trade has for the most returned in safety. Her fleets have blocked up those of the Dutch, & upon the separation of the combined fleets recovered the superiority in the European seas. The army taken in America is only so far decidedly ruinous to her affairs here, as we know how to avail ourselves of the advantage it affords. That her pride is not humbled, that she did not wish for peace, prior to this advantage is obvious; 1st, from her refusing to make a separate treaty with the Dutch, who under the mediation of the Empress of Russia seemed anxiously to wish it; 2d, from her neglect to notice the last proposals of the mediating powers, which yet remain unanswered. So that if any alteration is made in their sentiments on this subject they must originate in their ill success in America, for in every other quarter their defensive war seems to have been supported with advantage. How far this will operate admits of a doubt which prudence directs us not to rely upon. Money, the great support of modern wars, has been raised with more facility in England than in any country in the world, & we find the minority last year censuring Lord North for giving the advantage of *lending* to his friends. Their losses may indeed render subscriptions more expensive to the public, but there is no well grounded reason to suppose they will not fill, and still less reason to believe, if the means for carrying on the war are attainable, that the vindictive spirit of the King & his ministry, & the overweening pride of the nation, will soon yield to make a peace which involves their disgrace & humiliation.

But as strength or weakness are mere comparative terms, we can form no judgment of the measures of

Britain, but by attending to the force and disposition of her enemies.

The United Provinces were evidently dragged into the war, & have prosecuted it as if they momently expected peace. The colonies in the West Indies have been taken without being in a state to make the smallest resistance, & the active interposition of France alone saved those in the East from sharing the same fate. Our last letters from Holland place the distress of their commerce in a strong point of view. They are unhappily rent by parties which clog the wheels of government, tho' it is said that the party opposed to England are the most numerous & growing in strength, so that at some future day, we may reasonably hope, they will assume the entire ascendency, yet we can build very little on this till the close of another year; this much is certain, they are not yet allied to us, nor have they given us any reason to think that they intend to be so. They wish for peace, & will take no measures that can obstruct it. They have lent us no money, nor are they like to do it, from whence we may presume either that they doubt our success, or do not much interest themselves in it. Our expectations from Spain are scarce more flattering. Some little aids of money have been received after long solicitation, hardly so much as paid the expence of soliciting. We have reason to suppose that no more will be granted. They are still cold with regard to our alliance, — nothing but brilliant success can bring it to a conclusion. Nor have we the smallest reason to expect any pecuniary aid from her, even if she should confederate with us in time to be of use for the next campaign; she has at this moment very many & very expensive operations on hand, and 'till she has allied herself to us, we have no certainty that she will chuse to continue the war for the attainment of our independence, if Britain should be sufficiently humbled to sacrifice to her the objects which led her into the war.

To France then we turn as the only enemy of Great Britain who is at the same time our ally, who will persevere in the war for the attainment of our independence. She has already done so much for us in order to afford us the means of doing something for ourselves that she may reasonably hope to find the effect of her benevolence. Her fleets have protected our coasts, her armies have fought our battles, she has made various efforts to restore our finances, by paying the interest of our loans, by obtaining credit in Europe on our account for cloathing, arms & necessaries, by advancing money, and by opening and guarantying a loan for us to a considerable amount in Holland, when by the abolition of paper our finances were totally deranged. Those sums are nearly expended, another campaign is about to be entered upon. France assures us that it is not in her power to make us further grants of money. Her ministers repeat this to us in a tone that persuades us of their determination on that point. What then is to be done? Are we to relinquish the hopes which the present debility of the enemy afford us of expelling them by one decided effort, and compensating our losses by the enjoyment of an active commerce? Are we to return to the wretched, oppressive system we have quitted? Are we to carry on a weak defensive war with an unpaid army, whose precarious subsistence must depend upon what can be torn by violence from the industrious husbandman, shall we vainly, & I think, disgracefully, supplicate all the powers of Europe for those means which we have in our own hands if we dare to call them forth? and which, after all, must be called forth if we continue the war, (& upon that subject there can be no doubt till the end for which we took up arms is attained) — the only question is, whether each State shall fairly & regularly contribute its quota, or whether that which happens to be the seat of war shall (as has too often been the case) bear the whole burden,

and suffer more from the necessities of our own troops than the ravages of the enemy, — whether we shall drive the enemy from their posts with a strong body of regular troops, or whether we shall permit them to extend their devastations while, with weak battalions & fluctuating corps of militia, we protract a weak, defensive war, 'till our allies are discouraged & some unfavorable change takes place in the system of Europe. Your Excellency, I am persuaded, will pardon the freedom with which I write; you see the necessity which dictates my letter, & were it in my power to communicate all that our friends in Europe think of our inactivity, I am persuaded you would urge your State to exertions in much stronger terms than I dare venture to use. When Congress call upon a State for supplies, they are usually answered by pleas of disability, urged too by the State with good faith and a firm persuasion that they speak their real situation. A recurrence to facts that have passed under their own observation must convince them that they were deceived.

From the time that the depreciation of the continental bills of credit began 'till they were no longer current, the States that received them paid a tax equal to all the expenditures of the army, & a very considerable one beyond it. For if we suppose ten million of dollars in specie a year to be necessary for their support, then the expence till the close of the campaign 1779 must have amounted to upwards of fifty millions exclusive of supplies from Europe, and yet in March, 1780, the whole national debt contracted in America did not in fact amount to five millions, so that forty five millions were paid by the United States in those five years of the war when they had the least commerce & agriculture, & when they were most distressed by the enemy. And this tax too was the most unjust & partial that can be conceived, unless we except that by which we have since raised much more from the people without giving so much to

the public, I mean the laws for impressing, &c., which placed the greatest burden of the war upon the shoulders of a particular order of men in particular States only. Now surely, if by partial & unjust measures, which necessity alone can plead for, we have been able to draw from every State a tax more than equal to the present demand, no State can say that it cannot afford its proportion of a more equitable tax. Those who have hitherto borne the weight of the war must warmly espouse a measure which is so greatly calculated for their relief. Those who have hitherto been eased from the burden must be more able to take it up at this time, when they have the most promising expectations of relinquishing it soon.

It is certain that if we put ourselves in a state to take advantage of circumstances early in the ensuing spring, we have the best grounded reason to hope that a few months will remove the war from our doors, whereas if we delay to enable Congress to say to their allies "we are ready for an effectual cooperation with any force you may send," they will turn their attention to other objects, & leave us to lament in vain the opportunities we have lost. Every motive then, national honor, national interest, public œconomy, private ease, and that love of freedom which pervades every legislature on the continent, call loudly not only for a compliance with the requisitions of Congress, but for so early a compliance as to render it effectual. It is true we are at present in such a situation as to have no apprehensions for the final establishment of our independence, but surely it is a matter of some moment whether we shall obtain it, or at least be freed from the ravages of the enemy & the burdens of the war, in the course of six months, at the expence of eight millions of dollars, or whether we shall wait for it till a general & perhaps a distant peace, & be subject in the mean while to infinitely greater expence & all the distress that attends the country which is the

seat of war. But, Sir, it is time to dismiss a subject which wants no arguments to illustrate it. I am confident that you will use every means to convince the State over which you preside of the danger which will result from relying more upon the weakness of the enemy than upon their own strength, more upon the aid of their allies than their own exertions, more upon unjust, partial, hazardous & expensive expedients than upon an equal & regular support of the measures which Congress, upon the most mature deliberation, has recommended to their attention.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the greatest respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humble servant.

Rob^{t} R. Livingston.

Indorsed: 19th Feb^{ry}, 1782. Circular. Office of Foreign Affairs, *de* State of Affairs. Necessity of providing for next Campaign. rec^{d} 18th Mar. seq., and answered on the last page April 24th, 1782.

EZRA STILES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Gov^{r} Trumbull, Lebanon. Honored by M^{r} Lockwood.

Yale College, Febry. 20th, 1782.

Sir, — I am honored with your Excellency's letter of 14th instant. I purpose to continue a paternal attention to your grandson. I would not excuse myself from preaching the Election Sermon on M^{r} Trumbull's failure * was I able to perform it with the dignity due to so important an occasion. But tho' I preach much I am no preacher: my talent does not lie in this, & I never made a sermon to my own satisfaction, while I have made many

* The Election Sermon was preached, May 9, 1782, by Rev. John Trumbull, of Watertown, Conn.; but apparently he was in poor health, and was not able to go through the whole service. See The Literary Diary of Rev. Ezra Stiles, D.D., vol. iii. p. 21. — Eds.

to the dissatisfaction of others. To preach the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ & Salvation by the Cross I am, always ready ; but to compose a political discourse I am not able, altho' I am a firm friend to the policy of this & the other United States.

I had written thus far intending to have excused myself from the honor of the appointment, and to have requested your Excellency to appoint another person, but some friends coming in & seeing my purpose have dissuaded me. And this opportunity being on the wing, I have only to say that by the leave of Providence I will endeavour, tho' with great reluctance, to comply with your Excellency's request. May the strength of the Most High sustain you, Sir, under the arduous affairs of public government. I congratulate the Academy of Arts & Sciences in their having done themselves the honor of electing yourself a member of that literary society, which is introducing itself to a correspondence with all the academies of sciences in Europe.* I have the honor to be, with the most profound respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, very hum^{l} serv^{t}.

EZRA STILES.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 20th Feb^{y}, 1782. Rev^{d} D^{r} Stiles, de preaching at the next Election, rec^{d} 4th March seq.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(Circular) OFFICE OF FINANCE, Feb^{y}, 1782.

SIR, — In the circular letter which I did myself the honor to transmit you on the nineteenth of October last, I stated our situation as clearly and explicitly as I could. so that you might be in capacity to form a solid judge-

* Governor Trumbull was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Jan. 30, 1782. See *post*, pp. 404, 412. — EDS.

ment as to what would be proper. I am now to inform you that the most recent and authentic information from Europe contains the reiterated determination on the part of France to grant us no further pecuniary aid. Spain appears to have neither the inclination nor the ability to afford any, and in Holland it can only be obtained from individuals, who will always require security and consequently will not lend to the United States, who, as you well know, have no security to give. The want of proper funds has so reduced domestic credit, that we can draw no resources from thence, and until domestic credit is established foreign credit cannot exist, for it is absurd to expect that foreigners will confide in a government that has not the confidence of its own citizens. It is hardly possible to describe the consequences which have followed on a loss of credit. We have seen the people diffident, jealous and unhappy, nor have they yet recovered, even where the removal of undue restrictions has given them time to breathe, from that load of oppression. But the public are if possible in a still worse situation. No persons will trust the public from a deep apprehension of ruin if they should, and consequently our operations must be bounded by the taxes which can be collected, while at the same time we must contend for our very existence as a free country at an expence which we cannot limit, because we cannot limit the efforts made against us. Whenever proper methods shall have been taken to restore credit, the benefits arising from it will be as evident to all as the want is now to those who are entrusted with the administration. Our expence at this moment is greater than it ought to be, tho less than it was, and I cannot retrench because I have not sufficient means in my power, and have not to this moment any certain reliance on sufficient aid from the several States.

I am much inclined to believe that individuals in the several Legislatures are unacquainted with the real state

of affairs, or flatter themselves that they are better than they are, even after information. If gentlemen would consider seriously the situation of the public servants, they would at least not suspect them of describing our dangers as greater than they are. They would not for instance suppose that I would give a high coloring to the disorders of our finances, because they must see that on the contrary I should derive a degree of credit from the general belief that such disorders do not exist. And when I declare my apprehensions, I injure so far my own operations. My reason for describing our situation in its true light is, that the States may be excited to grant us relief. I might by an appearance of wealth extend my operations for a little while, but in the end they would fail, and how we should then be extricated no man can tell. At present I must bear the evils which result from the want of resources, and limit my views accordingly, but it would be madness to inculcate an opinion that things are worse than they are, because then I could not derive the full benefits of those resources which we have. You must therefore be convinced that I give you no exagerated account, and I trust, Sir, that your Legislature will give due weight to assertions which they have every reason to believe, and which, if neglected, they will be convinced of by a melancholy and perhaps fatal experience.

Many people flatter themselves with the hope of peace, but on what is it founded? Has the enemy given the slightest evidence of a desire for it? Instead of sueing for peace they talk only of war, they prepare only for war, and when they might have got rid of one enemy by a word they disdained it. Altho Holland offered a seperate peace, England refused to accept it, nor have we yet heard that she has agreed to negociate for, much less to conclude, a general peace. She enjoys full credit, and therefore she *can* carry on the war, and the object of it on

her part is so great that therefore she *will* carry on the war. Hitherto she has carried it on alone and unsupported. Years have elapsed since it was pretended that she could not find resources for another campaign, and yet campaigns have succeeded each other with encreasing expence, and are still like to go on. With a credit like hers there can be no want of the means, and therefore we have no reason to expect that she will be deprived of them while that credit exists. How soon she may find associates, or how soon we may loose them, no man can say. While the mutability of all human affairs continues to be the theme of common & daily observation, no wise man will rely on the frailty of human opinion, and yet opinion may in a moment sway the politics of different powers so as totally to change all present appearances. While the war continues, England has hope. The times and chances which happen to all may favour her, and at worst she can conclude a peace which cannot be more pernicious than the loss of these States. We ought therefore to expect that Great Britain will continue the war, and we ought even to expect that she will find allies to assist her in it. We ought therefore to prepare ourselves for increasing efforts of opposition.

But admitting that negociations were opened and in a train of effect, what then would be our situation? Are we in capacity to insist on useful and honorable terms? There is hardly a State in the Union but has an interest in objects which under our present circumstances are unattainable. While the enemy continue in possession of New York & Charlestown we cannot expect such a peace as every good American ought to desire, nor shall we obtain that security without which peace is no longer a blessing.

The successes of last campaign will undoubtedly derange the plans of the enemy for a time, but whether or not those successes will prove decisive must depend upon ourselves. If we indolently lie still untill the

enemy can obtain reinforcements, our prospects at the close of next campaign may be as gloomy as at the opening of the last. If we exert ourselves to strike the enemy before he can receive aid we may perhaps drive him intirely away, and then indeed we shall have reason to expect peace. It has been the common trick of the enemy to pretend at every success we have obtained, nay, during every winter of the war, that it would immediately cease, and they have had emissaries among us to inculcate that idea. The consequence has been that we have never been in a state of preparation as soon as they, notwithstanding the Atlantic Ocean lies between the two countries and places them at least three months assunder as to all military operations. No thinking man can hesitate a moment in the opinion that we ought to prepare for an early and vigorous campaign in order to take New York and Charlestown. But some persons of sanguine temper say that the enemy will evacuate one of these places. If it be so, surely they will be so much stronger at the other, and of course it will be so much the more difficult to expel them from it. Possibly they may incline to evacuate one of these places, and if so, they will be determined by a knowlege of our force. If we are formidable it will be an additional reason with them for the evacuation. But other persons still more sanguine suppose that they will evacuate both places. This is surely absurd, for even if they negociate for peace they will hold something as a ground on which to make demands, and if they prosecute the war they will certainly not abandon the object of it. Admitting, however, that the enemy may have some thoughts of this sort, surely the determination will be greatly influenced by a consideration of our relative force or imbecility. And even if they should ent[i]rely quit the United States, still there are objects well worth fighting for. Objects too which cannot be obtained without fighting.

Every reason, therefore, combines in shewing the propriety of commencing our operations very early and therefore every thing has been done for the purpose which the means in my power would admit of. It remains only with the several States to provide men and money and to make that provision as early as possible; for the old adage that he who gives early doubles thereby his gift can never be more applicapl [*sic*] than on the present occasion, for, whatever may be the different opinions of different men, all must agree that the only way to secure peace is to be prepared for war. And depend on it that if we neglect the present moment we shall have bitter cause to lament our negligence.

In the letter before mentioned I did myself the honor to observe, that I expected the future expenditures would be greatly curtailed. This has happened, but I also mentioned that the most rigid œconomy had its bounds and could not exist without the punctual performance of those engagements on which the first steps towards it must depend. I have not yet reached those bounds, for reasons I have already stated, and how long it will be before I arrive at them must depend on the ability to perform the engagements I have made. And surely it is unnecessary to add that this ability must depend on the exertions of the States. I mentioned also that I should shortly advertise for contracts, as the most effectual means of husbanding our resources. With respect to this matter of contracts, I have some reason to believe that it has been misunderstood, and therefore I shall take the liberty of giving some little information on the subject. When I was called into office I had a thorough conviction that supplying by contract was most effectual and most œconomical. But I had no money, and credit was at so low an ebb that most people doubted whether any one would contract. At that time the State of Pennsilvania gave me assurances of hard money to pro-

cure the articles of specific supplies due from that State on the requisitions of Congress. I immediately purchased a part of those supplies on my private and personal credit and assurances, and I advertised for a contract to supply rations at Philadelphia. By degrees I extended the contracts throughout Pennsilvania, whereas if I had advertised for them all at once I might probably have failed in obtaining proposals, or if not, those who inclined to risque it would have made the public pay dear for the credit reposed in their minister. The contracts for Pennsylvania were paid out of monies granted for furnishing the supplies, and the articles are carried to account on the requisitions. Having reason to expect support from the eastern and middle States, I have extended the contracts for supplies thro all the country northward and eastward of Potowmack river, and in order that you may judge of the effect I will mention that on an application for pay to the Department of the issueing Commissary I required a return of them and of their monthly pay, which being made, I found that within that district it amounted to ten thousand five hundred and twenty five dollars, which sum is annually for the salary alone, exclusive of all other expences, one hundred and twenty six thousand dollars. The rations delivered at West Point and its dependencies are supplied at the rate of nine and an half ninetieths of a dollar for each ration. Consequently that sum will yield one million one hundred and ninety six thousand five hundred and twenty six rations, which is something more than three thousand two hundred and seventy eight per day. But when it is considered that salaries were not the only expenses of a Department, it is certainly estimating within bounds to suppose that five thousand soldiers are fed every day on what it formerly cost the public to support the issuers of provision in a part of the United States. I should have pursued the business of

contracting throughout America, had I recieved any assurances of taxation which would warrant the procedure. But I had none, and I did not dare to risque myself in making engagements which I found no probability of keeping. But whenever I can see my way clear I shall certainly do it, and I trust that the effects will be as beneficial as they have been elsewhere.

Having already observed on the necessity of early & vigorous exertions, and mentioned that I had done every thing towards them which was in my power, I have only to add that unless we are properly supported every thing so done has been thrown away. The views of the Commander in Chief will be disapointed. The combinations intended with our allies will be deranged, and the enemy will derive that advantage from our negligence which we might have derived from their weakness.

It gives me pain to learn that the public service is too often interrupted, and the attention of men diverted from it by little, trivial disputes, of a private, partial or local nature, which are comparatively of little consequence. This is a conduct unworthy of wise men, and such as cannot be justified. Surely it is best first to provide for the defence of our country, before we squabble about minute objects of controversy. If we should be told that the British were so materially divided in their Parliament, that in contentions about trivial disputes they delayed granting to the Crown effectual aid of money, we should certainly form very splendid expectations from that circumstance. Judge then whether our enemy's hopes are not raised by our dissentions. Or rather, let me ask if they have not loudly asserted that they would prove ruinous to the cause of Independence? Nay, have they not boasted that those dissentions originated in British influence or British gold? What then must be the opinion of foreigners and strangers? What will they not conclude from a conduct, which according

to their habits of reasoning, can only be accounted for by disaffection, folly or madness? Let us for heaven's sake, while engaged in a cause the most honorable, the most virtuous, and which must endear the present generation to future ages, let us preserve a conduct noble, dignified, and worthy of that glorious cause. In pursuit of the greatest object which man can possess, in the fair road to peace, liberty, and safety, let us not fall out by the way. But united to and supporting each other, let our efforts be equal to our claims, and let us shew that we have the perseverance to obtain what we have had the spirit to demand. Let us at once become independent, really and truly independent, independent of our enemies, of our friends, of all but the Omnipotent.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient & humble servant.

ROB^{T} MORRIS.

His Excellency the Governor of Connecticutt.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Private. PHILADELP^{A}, 15 March, 1782.

SIR, — The Committee to whom was referred your Excellency's letter respecting the pay and subsistence of the State troops have not yet made report. M^{r} Law and I have therefore judged that we had no matters of sufficient importance to write an official letter upon at this time.

By a vessel just arrived at this port from L'Oleron, in 30 days, accounts, it is said, are bro't that de Guichen's fleet had got refitted at Brest and was ready to sail when this vessel left France. She has bro't, it said, papers giving information that S^{r} James Lowther had made a motion in Parliament that the British troops should be withdrawn from America, and that the force of the nation should be concentered against France and Spain;

that L^d North agreed that it was necessary to change the mode of carrying on the war, but that it was necessary to retain one or more posts in America; that upon the question the ministry negatived the motion by a majority of forty two members. The debates in Parliament upon the American war, it is said, have been very animated, but I do not hear of any who are for peace. These accounts are but just rec^d. I give them as I have collected them, and which are probably in substance true. Upon the plan of the ministry we are perhaps to expect a desultory war in America, and that the great effort of the nation will be to augment and give vigor to their marine.

It will be very agreable to me that the delegates who are to succeed M^r Law and me shall attend by the time your Excellency has mentioned in your letter. It will be necessary for me to return as early in the spring as can consist with my duty.

I am, with great esteem,

Your Excellency most obed^t servant.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut. Frank^t. O. Wolcott.

Private. PHILADELP^A, 19^t March, 1782.

SIR, — I enclose to your Excellency some publick prints which, alltho they discover much disorder in the British councils and nation, yet I do not apprehend that many of either party have any design to yield the independence of this country. L^d Shelburne, I believe, and his party imagine that if they should get into power and offer what they would call ginerous terms to America, that we would give up our independence and break our

alliance. It is most astonishing that such a tho't could possibly be entertained at this period. But I think that numbers of the minority still flatter themselves with so strange a delusion.

The debt of the British nation last Aug. was 178 millions funded and 21 millions unfunded debt. Annual interest rising of eight millions.

The present Parliament have, it is said, granted three millions and a half for extra. The supplys for this year will not probably be less than 20 millions. Poor America, how much would you have to pay if you should be beat? But blessed be God that we have so little reason to fear such an event.

The Court of London has offered to submit her dispute with Holland to the mediation of Russia. The circumstances of the war and the divided, dilatory councils of Holland render a seperate paccification very improbable, in the opinion of almost every gentleman that I have conversed with.

I am, with the highest esteem,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} serv^{t}.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 19th March, 1782. Ol. Wolcott, Esq^{r}, *de* strange delusion to apprehend America will return to English government. National British Debt, last Aug^{t}, 178 millions funded; 21 do unfunded. Interest rising 8 do. Extra this year 3½ do. Expenses y^{s} year 20 do. Dutch United States divided. Russia offered to mediate, not probable to accepted, rec^{d} 1st April.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.*

LEBANON, 24th April, 1782.

SIR, — I had the honor to receive your letter of the 19th Febr^{y} in due time; fully impressed with a sence of

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* The copy of the answer to Mr. Livingston's circular is written at the foot of the last page of the circular. See *ante*, p. 317. — EDS.

the importance of its object, I immediately laid it before my Council of Safety, and shall, at the approaching sessions of the Gen[l] Assembly of the State, submit it to their view, & urge the necessity of their serious attention.

The papers which you have requested in your late letters are not yet in a state to be sent on by this conveyance; I can only say, that they shall be forwarded to you, as soon as they can be compleated.

I am, &c., &c.

Hon[o] Rob[t] R. Livingston, Esq[r].

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Head Quarters, Newburgh, 24[th] Ap[r], 1782.

Hon[d] Sir, — I have to thank you in the name of the General, as well as for myself, for the packet p Sergeant Allen, which came safe. It does not contain the debates so late nor so full as was represented here. It will be returned p first good opportunity, till which time it will be very safe.

Letters from Europe as late as 30[th] of Jan[y] mention "that Lord Cornwallis was received in England with the highest applause, that passing thro Exeter, he was presented with the freedom of the city, arriving in London, he was carried from the London Tavern to Guildhall upon the shoulders of the populace," — how variable is the popular approbation! how different the reception of Burgoyne. "England is determined to play a desperate game, no thot of evacuating N. York or Charlestown any more than the city of London; but whether defensive or offensive measures will take place in America, is not decided. In France, they are disposed to give assistance to America, but universally think that she does not exert

herself in proportion to her strength or the importance of her cause," — a usefull hint to her sons!

I am, most dutifully,
Your Son,
J. TRUMBULL, JU^R.

P. S. Gen^l Arnold is consulted on the mode of the American war.

Indorsed: 24^th April, 1782. Col^o Jon^th Trumbull, *de* intelligence. Cap^t Huddy, rec^d 29^th ins^t.

OLIVER WOLCOTT AND RICHARD LAW TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELP^A, 29^th April, 1782.

SIR, — Your Excellency's letter of the [*blank*] day of February last, inclosing the Acts of the Assembly respecting the paying and subsisting at the general expense ten companys proposed to be raised by the State, was rec^d by Congress. Upon which a Committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration, with an instruction to conferr with the Commander in Chief. This Committee, after a longer delay than might have been expected, brot in a report, — That it was the opinion of the Commander in Chief that the State of Connecticut was in similar circumstances to that of N. York (who had been allowed militia regiments at the continental expence), and thereupon they reported, That the ten companys should be paid and subsisted at the expence of the States, but annexed a proviso that it should be upon condition that the State should first fill up their line in the army. When the matter came before Congress, we observed that the proviso would defeat (if agreed to) every benefit which the State might otherwise expect from the resolution, for if the State should fail of furnishing every recruit, a circumstance which it was most unreasonable to expect, as no line since the war, nor any army ordained

to consist of a definite number, ever was compleat, the proviso therefore might be considered as impossible in the performance. The propriety of this objection seemed to be very generally admitted.

But as we were sensible that the subject would meet with considerable opposition, and that much stress would be laid upon the increase of officers beyond the proportion of the privates, and that no troops ought to be at the general expence but such as were altogether under the orders of the Commander in Chief, and as we had an intire confidence in his wisdom and justice, we offered an amendment to the proviso, — That no more officers should be paid and subsisted than in proportion to the overpluss number of the non commission officers and privates, computing both those of the line of the army and the new levies, and that the ten companys should be under the orders of the Commander in Chief, to operate anywhere within the United States. Other gentlemen offered amendments to that which we proposed, without any material variance. On these amendments, which were essentially the same, votes were taken, but none were agreed to; on one of them the question was lost by a single vote of a State which was divided. The question was then put upon the original resolution and rejected.

The objections against the application were, that should Congress comply with it, others of a similar nature would be made; that if the lines of the army were compleat, which ought to be insisted upon, such extra aid would be unnecessary; that the condition of the finances would not admit of new demands; that the adoption of such a measure would seem to exclude the idea of making the exertions of particular States for their own defence an object of publick charge, except in cases which had been specially provided for by Congress. We observed that if any other State was equally exposed, which but very few were, they would merit an equal protection;

that our experience must compel conviction that the lines would not be full, and that we proposed no expence in support of officers but in proportion to the number of privates; that the State, exposed as it was, ought not to be considered as able to furnish the pecuniary aid required, in case she must be at the sole expence of her own protection; and that the question was not, wheither all the expence of individual States for their defence should be made a common charge, but who in the present case ought to pay it in the first instance. We represented the condition of the State, and compared its situation and the protection it rec^{d} with those of others, but were sorry to find that our efforts to support a measure which to us appeared reasonable was not attended with more success.

We have no material news to communicate to your Excellency. The great naval armaments in the West Indies lead us to expect that events of an interesting nature will take place in that quarter. We might perhaps mention, what your Excellency may not have been fully informed of, that the Court of London has refused the mediation of the Emperor and Empress, upon the condition that America shall be an object of the negotiation, so that the business of peace will be deferred till after another campaign.

We feel ourselves disappointed that the other gentlemen in the delegation are not here to relieve us. M^{r} Wolcott is about to return; M^{r} Law has so depended upon messenger Browne's being here before this time, that from an accident depending upon that circumstance he will be compelled to tarry a little longer. We hope that your Excellency will accelerate the other gentlemen to come forward, as the State ought to be represented. We are, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humble servants.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

RICHARD LAW.

GOV^{r} TRUMBULL.

P. S. A contract for furnishing the army for this campaign has been made, the rations to be furnished in the State of N. York at 8^{d} our money each. Some variation from these if troops shall be furnished more easterly. There are two gentlemen of N. England concerned in the contract, M^{r} Edwards of Stockbridge and M^{r} Phelps of Greenvil. The Bourbon frigate will be finished. M^{r} Morrice had not, a few days ago, determined upon his nomination of a commissioner to settle the accounts of the State against the U. States. It is not intended that any commissioner shall be appointed for the State to which he belongs. M^{r} Burrol will doubtless be appointed by the Superintendant to settle the accounts of the Commissary's Department.

Indorsed: 29th April, 1782. O. Wolcott & R. Law, Delegates, *de* the Application for ten Companies on Continental Expense. Rec^{d} 12th May seq.

RICHARD LAW TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Governor. State Connecticut. Free. Rich^{d} Law.

PHILADELPHIA, April 30, 1782.

SIR, — As Gen^{ll} Wolcott set off yesterday on his return home, Connecticut is now unrepresented; am much disappointed the gentlemen have not come forward agreable to the encouragement your Excellency was pleased to give in your last. Tis now neer seven months have ben absent from home, and shall return as soon as M^{r} Brown arrives by whom expect a horse for that purpose.

Since ours of yesterday, nothing material has occurred, except some foreign communications from the French Minister, which will be officially communicated to your Excellency by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the substance of which I beg leave to hint is, — That, thô the mode was not fully concluded on, yet that his Most

Christian Majesty was determind to give us the most effectual aid, to enable us the ensueing campaign to exterpate our enemies wholly from our land, and that the States relying upon such assistance might be induced to make their utmost exertions to co-operate therewith; that attempts would be made by the British Court to negotiate with the States separately — in order if possible to weaken and divide us, and to strengthen the impression they have ben endeavouring to make upon the mediating powers that America was not firmly & fully fixed in her independance, but still retaind an *animum revertendi*, a wish for reconciliation could she but emancipate from that usurpation of power, which she now labours under.

Inclose you the news paper of the day, and remain, with the highest sentiments of esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humble serv^{t}.

RICH^{D} LAW.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 30th April, 1782. Rich^{d} Law, Esq^{r}, *de* his detention, com̃unication from French Minister, designs of British Court, &c., rec^{d} 12th inst.

EZRA STILES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

YALE COLLEGE, May 1, 1782.

SIR, — Upon the academical tumult last March and the severity of our discipline, I intended to have written to your Excellency, as your grandson was concerned in that which led to it & was himself the subject of public animadversion. But altho' I sought, I did not find an opport^{y} until I tho't it as well to defer saying any thing on the subject till I might have the honor of seeing you at the election. In general I may say as to your son that, except in the instance referr'd to, he has conducted agree-

ably. I am happy in being undeceived as to some apprehensions I once had, least he might have been entangled with cards, but I am fully satisfied his studies have not been interrupted by this amusement. We have had rather a tumultuous & disorderly term till the event which brot down a discipline which stilled college; that for now a month past we have had a quiet, tranquill & studious season.*

I am,

Your Excell^ys most dutiful serv^t.

Gov^r Trumbull. Ezra Stiles.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Circular. Office of Foreign Affairs,
Philadelphia, 2^d May, 1782.

Sir, — The enclosed resolution of Congress will explain the cause of this letter; the information it refers to is an assurance that Britain had absolutely declined any interference of the mediating powers between them and what they call their rebel subjects. They persist on every occasion in representing us a divided people, who anxiously wish to return to our connection with England; in this they have two objects equally important to

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* In President Stiles's Diary under date of March, 1782, are the following entries:—

"26. . . . . This Eveng. about 20 or 25 Scholars went into a great Tumult & Riot, in Contempt of a public Judgment & Punishm^t inflicted in the Chapel for Damages done to the Hall & Buttery. Upon which they collected in a body for the Demolition of Old College.

"27. At Eveng. Prayers in a very full Chapel three of the Scholars were expelled. . . .

"29. At Morning Prayers another Scholar expelled. And at Eveng. Prayers 12 others rusticated, admonished & otherwise settled the affair for the present. It has been a very distress^g affair to me.

"30. College settled — but not quite to my mind. I think we were not quite severe eno' last Eveng. The minds of Scholars were highly wro't up to expect^a of great Punishm^t. Our great mildness towards the last I fear has disserved Government. We should have rusticated half a dozen, & this would have given Scholars a Conviction of resolute & firm Discipline. However I hope, by the Blessing of Gd, w^t we have done will establish a Conviction that we dare inflict the highest Punishments."

(See the Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles, D.D., vol. iii. pp. 12, 13.) — Eds.

them, — 1st, they encourage England to continue a war which they expect to see terminated by our own weariness and langor; and 2dly, they put such a face upon their affairs as will entitle them on a negotiation to make demands at our expence, which they would not presume to think of if the mediators were acquainted with our firm resolution never to return to our obedience to their government. Besides which they cast a degree of odium upon the conduct of France, representing it as the support of a discontented faction, rather than as the generous ally of an oppressed nation. There is reason to apprehend that, in order the better to secure the advantages of this deceitful policy to themselves, they will make proffers to each of the United States. If any of them should listen to them (which cannot be presumed) they will urge that as a proof of their assertions; if they should even decline receiving their proposals, and refer them to Congress, as from the nature of our union they undoubtedly must, still as the result of the experiment cannot be known for some time in Europe, they will avail themselves in some measure of it if negotiations should open. This artifice of the enemy may be counteracted in two ways, — both deserve the serious attention of your Legislature; the first and most important is, by making such exertions to procure a respectable army early in the season that the mediators casting their eyes upon the muster rolls may there read a full refutation of all that British artifice can suggest. I need not observe that this measure must go hand in hand with taxation, since an army without the means of supporting them would only increase our evils. The 2d is, to anticipate the attempts of Great Britain by such resolutions as the information contained in this letter suggests. Resolutions which strongly mark a spirited determination in the Legislature of each State to listen to no negotiations, except thro' the intervention of Congress, which manifest their attachment to the independ-

ance of their country, and their inviolable regard to the faith they have pledged to each other and to their allies, — these may either prevent the attempt I apprehend, or arrive in time to counteract the effect which the false expectations built thereon might otherwise have in Europe. I mention this to your Excellency without any express direction from Congress; it is more than probable that your judgement and the zeal and wisdom of the Legislature may improve these loose hints to the general advantage of the United States. I have the pleasure of assuring your Excellency and the Legislature that the fairest prospects are now before us of terminating the war by a single exertion, tho' I am not at liberty to say that the plan of the ensuing campaign is absolutely determined on, yet I have great reason to beleive that we shall receive such powerful military aid, as, with becoming vigor on our part, will free every State in the Union from the grasp of the enemy. Here, Sir, I might pause and suffer my imagination to dwell upon the animating prospect before us. But reasoning from the past to the future, I dare not indulge the pleasing idea; we have at no period been in a situation to second fully the endeavours of our ally to serve us, we either neglected to assemble our army in time, or to provide the means for supporting or moving them; a feather would have turned the ballance last year, notwithstanding the powerful aid we received from abroad. Providence blinded our adversary; to their temerity we owe our success. But, Sir, let me ask whether any State did then, or has even now done, all in its power to enable our Generals to prosecute this victory, or rather let me turn to what is more within my line by observing that the inferiority of our army in point of numbers to that of their ally while they acted at Yorktown, has been considered in Europe as a proof of the assertions of Britain, has been urged as an argument of our weakness, our weariness of the war, or our

internal divisions, — a moment's reflection will shew the advantages that this affords our antagonist in a negotiation. How much it weakens the claims we make, and how many important benefits may be lost forever by our appearing in Europe to receive our independance rather as a gift than to have established it by our exertions. But, Sir, it is still in our power to repair these errors; let us avail ourselves of this favorable moment for expelling the enemy and recovering our diminished credit among the nations of the earth. I make no appology for the liberty I take. Your Excellency, I am persuaded, is too sensible of the truth of these observations to think they could be delivered with less earnestness by one who feels their importance, and I am confident you will bring them before the Legislature of your State in such manner as will best serve to insure them their attention.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the greatest respect and esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hum. servant.

ROB^{T} R. LIVINGSTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 2nd May, 1782. Minister of Foreign Affairs. Circular, *de* vigorous exertions, men & money, &c., rec^{d} p M^{r} Brown 23^{d} ins^{t}.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Circular. OFFICE OF FINANCE, May 9th, 1782.

SIR, — I do myself the honor to inclose you copies of three accounts which I have this day received from the Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States.* Each

* The "three accounts" here mentioned were not filed with Mr. Morris's letter; but in another part of the volume of Trumbull Papers containing it is the following "summary," which is no doubt one of the accounts: —

"*Summary of the State of the Old Emissions, May 3^{d}*, 1782.

New Hampshire	Quota to be Sunk		5,200,000
	Already destroyed by Return	2,299,769	
	Wanting to complete the Quota	2,900,231	5,200,000

State will from these accounts perceive what still remains for them to do in consequence of the resolutions of Congress of the eighteenth of March, 1780. As this is a

Massachusetts Bay	Quota to be Sunk		29,900,000
	Already destroyed by Return	12,984,687	
	Preparing to be destroyed	16,898,363	
	Wanting to complete the Quota	16,950	29,900,000
Rhode Island	Quota to be Sunk		2,600,000
	In the hands of the loan officer by his last Return, to be transmitted		2,600,000
Connecticut	Quota to be Sunk		22,100,000
	None transmitted and no Returns.		
New York	Quota to be Sunk		9,750,000
	Already destroyed by Return	599,396	
	Preparing to be destroyed . . Supposed	1,378,814	
	Wanting to complete the Quota	7,771,790	9,750,000
New Jersey	Quota to be Sunk		11,700,000
	Already destroyed by Return	6,334,325	
	Wanting to complete the Quota	5,365,675	11,700,000
Pennsylvania	Quota to be Sunk		29,900,000
	Already destroyed by Return	10,431,245	
	In the hands of the loan officer	11,272,664	
	In the hands of the State Treasr, said to be 5 or 6 mills, say	5,000,000	
	Wanting to complete the Quota	3,196,091	29,900,000
Delaware	Quota to be Sunk		2,210,000
	Preparing to be destroyed . . supposed	2,264,561	
	Sunk more than the Quota	54,561	2,210,000
Maryland	Quota to be Sunk		20,540,000
	Already destroyed by Return	115,116	
	In the loan office to be transmitted	6,793,346	
	Wanted to complete the Quota	13,631,538	20,540,000
Virginia	Quota to be Sunk		32,500,000
	Already destroyed by Return	908,150	
	In the hands of the loan officer by his last Return, to be transmitted	5,776,400	
	Wanted to complete the Quota	25,815,450	32,500,000
North Carolina	Quota to be Sunk		13,000,000
	None transmitted & no Return		
South Carolina	Quota to be Sunk		15,600,000
	Already destroyed by Return	221,387	
	Wanted to complete the Quota	15,378,613	15,600,000

"This is the most exact State that can be made from the Books and Files in the Register's Office; but it may be still very imperfect, because several of the Loan Officers have made no Returns for a long time back and others take no notice of the Old Emissions." — Eds.

circular letter, the observations I make shall be general and such as result from a general view of the object. The particular application of them dependent on local circumstances will be made by those to whom such circumstances apply. The resolutions of the eighteenth of March, 1780, were in part directed towards the redemption of the old continental money; and the opinions which may have been formed as to the issuing of a new paper medium, the paying of interest upon it, and the connection with and relation to the old are immaterial under the present point of view. Nothing can be more clear and simple than this, that the bills issued by Congress for support of the war should be redeemed by taxes. This was one capital object of the resolutions, and as to the apportionment I am to presume it was as perfect as the fluctuating nature of human affairs will permit, and more especially so when the few lights which could be obtained and the varying circumstances of the several States are compared with the very variable object of depreciated paper which was then in contemplation. But admitting for argument's sake, that the apportionment was not strickly right, this must also be admitted that to redeem the paper was called for by principles both of reason and justice. It was therefore a duty of the several States to comply with the requisitions of their sovereign representative. For any inequalities, either actually existing or which a subsequent change of circumstances might produce, would admit of remedy, but a neglect of the resolutions had the inevitable consequence of injuring the public credit, weakening the public operations, and risquing our very existence as a people. But however strong the motives which should have prompted a compliance, it will not be disputed that some of the States may have been in circumstances not to admit of the exertion, and whether this incapacity hath arisen from exterior violences or the defects of internal polity or both

is, in one sense, immaterial, because the eventual consequence is the same. Yet tho charity may for a time overlook these defects, it becomes the duty of each State to apply a remedy if the evil be in its nature remediable, and should they neglect what is in their power they must expect complaint from Congress and the servants of Congress, reproach from the other States, and from their own bosoms the admonitions of conscience which will become more poignant from every moment's delay. A general view of the accounts now transmitted will show at a single glance that large sums of the old paper still remain to be provided for, and it might perhaps have been right in Congress to have fixed an ultimate day of redemption for the whole and charged what remained due after that day at forty for one in specie to every deficent State. This, I say, might perhaps have been right if the ravages of war and other local circumstances had not required attention and forbearance as to some if not all. But it cannot be denied that many are now in capacity to call in by taxes their quota of this paper. And those who are should consider what must be the feelings of men who hold it on the faith of so many promises, such repeated requisitions, and such sacred bonds of national faith and honor. What must be their feelings to find those promises violated, those requisitions neglected, and that faith disregarded? Can it be expected that while such flagrant instances of national neglect, to call it by no harsher name, are in the view of almost every citizen that we can possibly establish the fair reputation so essential to public credit? The plea of inability is not to be admitted excepting, as I have already observed, in some very particular circumstances. Considering our country in a general point of view this paper lying dead is already lost, and the only question is whether that loss shall be borne by the whole people or only a part of them. Those who parted with it have received the value, and it

would be a flagrant injustice that the whole tax for redeeming it should fall on those who have received it. Neither can it be supposed that if any were inclined to promote such injustice it would be borne by the sufferers. And whether those sufferers are individuals or States, the suffering is the same, the sentiment therefore must be the same, and so will the conduct be which that sentiment shall dictate.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient & humble servant,

Rob^{t} Morris.

His Excellency the Governor of Connecticutt

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Philadelphia, May 11th, 1782.

Sir, — I arrived here last Monday, my horse's getting lame delayed me two or three days in my journey. The Committees to whom was referred your Excellency's letters, in respect to commissioning privateers, & in respect to the prisoners, have reported, but no resolves have been passed upon them.

Monday next the Minister of France has an audience to announce the birth of the Dauphin.

I was at Head Quarters in my way here; saw your son Col. Jonth, he was well. The Gen^{l} is exceeding anxious that no more of the recruits are come on, having received very few or none, except from the State of Rhod Island. This place has suffered exceedingly of late by privateers from New York, who so infest the Capes that it is scarcely practicable for a vessel to pass without being taken. We have no news, but what is in the news papers, to which I refer your Excellency.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's

most obed^{t}, humble servant.

His Excellency Gov^{r} Trumbull. Jesse Root.

P. S. Since writing the within we have rec^{d} the intelligence of the arrival of Gen^{l} Carlton at New York, & of the change in the British Ministry & Cabinet, an acc^{t} of which is contained in the inclosed papers; also an acc^{t} of an action between the two fleets in the West Indies.

Indorsed: 11th May, 1782. Jesse Root, Esq^{r}, Delegate, *de* my letter to Congress com^{d}. No news. rec^{d} p M^{r} Brown 23^{d} inst. M^{r} Law returned with M^{r} Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SILAS DEANE.*

HARTFORD, 15th May, 1782.

SIR, — I duly receiv'd your letter dated at Ghent the 21st October last, by Capt^{n} Trowbridge, and have paid that attention to your sentiments therein express'd which their singularity appear'd to me to merit.

At the time when you wrote, the decisive event of the last campaign in this country was not known to you; you was unacquainted with the noble part which France acted on that occasion, and you could not foresee that this blow would reduce the British Parliament *of Great Britain* to confess themselves unable to conduct a future offensive war in this country: you could not foresee that the trifling & indecisive campaign in Europe was to be so soon followed by the most important successes in other quarters of the world,— that S^{t} Eustatia, S^{t} Martin's, S^{t} Kitts, Montserrat, Nevis, & Minorca were destin'd to crown the glories of York Town.

Great Britain is declining fast *rapidly* towards the evening of her glory. Yet, I view her decline without feeling any

* This letter is here printed from the draught submitted to the General Assembly with some alternative readings and with some words underscored for omission, which are here indicated by italics. A few sentences in the draught were carefully erased, probably on account of a too florid form of expression. The letter to Mr. Deane in its corrected form and the letter to Mr. Livingston are printed by the New York Historical Society in the Deane Papers, vol. v. pp. 93–98. — EDS.

fears of France or Spain. It should be the first article of every man's political creed that no nation will ever assist another, but with a view of advancing her own interests. I am sensible how important an object the humiliation of their ancient enemy is to France & Spain, and I would not that my country should have receiv'd their favors, unless she could propose to them at the same time an adequate reward. I am sensible that France will ever have just demands upon our gratitude, and Heaven forbid we should ever so far forget the principles of virtue & honor as to withold our acknowledgements. Yet France, if not too generous, is at least too politic, to follow in those steps which have led her rival to ruin. She knows our power too well not to dread our enmity. She knows our rapidly increasing importance too well not to wish to cement our present friendship by a series of noble & liberal actions. You observe that we shall be deeply in debt to her for monies actually borrow'd & supplies of different kinds. It is very true, but shall we pay those debts with perfidy and ingratitude? Shall we basely desert her, shall we unite with her enemies & turn against her the resources which we derive from her in the very war which she has undertaken for our service? France has a body of troops in our country; very true, they have served us faithfully & effectually, but I doubt extremely her having any idea of augmenting their number to thirty or even twenty thousand men. The debility of our enemy does not leave her a pretext for such an augmentation, even if she wished it, and I trust we have too much wisdom to admit the proposal, were one made, even in an hour of distress, to that purpose. As to the treaty which guarantees our independance, I do not suppose that it will exist longer than it shall mutually appear to be the interest of the parties that it should exist; and I rely with more confidence upon the good sense, the bravery, & the virtue of my country-

men for the preservation of our liberties than upon any foreign aid. It is we ourselves who are interested in their preservation, and as long as we shall possess virtue to merit, so long we shall undoubtedly enjoy the invaluable blessing, — and whether Spain, Holland, or any other power upon earth, formally acknowledge the independance of the United States of America or not, is in my politics a matter of indifference. They are independant in fact, & the name is a bauble.

Sir Guy Carleton, who arriv'd a few days ago at New York, has made similar / *the same* propositions for peace (*in some measure*) in the name of the King of Great Britain with those / *which* you pointed out as attainable. You have painted the consequences of the continuance of the war. Permit me to view the consequences of such a peace.

The object proposed by the treaty subsisting between France & America is declar'd to be the acknowledgement of the independance of the latter by Great Britain, and in a subsequent resolution of Congress it is declar'd that even this object being gain'd neither party is at liberty to conclude a separate peace without the express consent of the other. In accepting the terms now propos'd by the King of Great Britain "to his revolted Colonies in North America," we must therefore break thro every obligation of national honor to dissolve this treaty. If the offer were of independance the words of the treaty might furnish us with a slender pretext for accepting it, tho' even then our own explanatory declaration would forbid the / *such a* step; but should we basely stoop to return to the state in which we were in the year 1763, which is the proposal of the enemy, we have not even words to shelter us from the contempt of mankind, and surely nothing / *what* but madness can lead / *persuade* us to a breach of faith as consumatily / *so much more* infamous as it is *in a case the most* important? yet let us suppose that America possesses fortitude sufficient to brave the insults of the world. In that moment the object of Great Britain

is accomplished. The present war will soon be terminated, and she will then be at liesure to renew her oppressions in this country, without a fear of the interposition of another foreign power. There is not a nation upon earth who would not exult in seeing a race of such perfidious, ungratefull, dastardly wretches oppress'd, harass'd, extirpated. France would for once forget her natural enmity to Great Britain, & rejoice heartily in the acceleration of our ruin. And let no one object to these ideas the generosity of the British nation; this war has given us full experience of what we are to expect from their generosity. Grant, that the continuance of the war for a few years will add considerably to the public debts & taxes, but tell me what ease we are to gain by a reunion with a people who are sinking under the pressure of their own debts and whose necessities will join with their resentments in the resolution to load us not only with our own but a large share of their burthens. No, I will sooner consent to load myself, my constituents, my posterity with a debt equal to the whole property of the country than consent to a measure so detestably infamous, & I doubt not but my countrymen in general will choose with me to preserve their liberties with the reputation & the consciousness of preserving virtue, even tho' poverty be the consequence.

That there have been injudicious expenditures of public monies, & that the same may happen again, is to be expected in this country, as it has been evidenc'd in every other, for we are not perfect more than all those who have gone before us; but extravagance is not the predominant vice of republics, & we shall endeavour to guard against it.

That our public officers at home and abroad have in some instances deviated from their duty, & while they have been expensive prov'd also useless or unfaithfull servants cannot be denied; & yet we have seen as little

of corruption & treason as times of public convulsion have commonly exhibited.

From the information which I have of the politics of Europe, I apprehend nothing hostile at present from Russia; letters from Petersburgh of as late date as November last declare "that the temper of that Court is not unfriendly to America"; and Holland if not our friend will, at least, not be our enemy.

I shall lay your letter with this answer before the General Assembly of this State, you will therefore regard these sentiments on the subject of peace not only as mine individually, but the general voice of the representatives of the people. They will afterwards remain on my public files as you request.

I am, Sir, your most obed^{t} servant.

SILAS DEANE, Esq^{r}.

GEN^{L} ASSEMBLY, HARTFORD, May, 1782.

The foregoing draft for a letter, &c., being read, is approved and ordered to be transmitted to the lower House. Test. GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secret^{y}*.

Concurred in the lower house in the approbation of the draft above. Nem^{ne} Contradicente. Test. S. M. MITCHELL, *Clerk*.

To the Hon^{ble} R. R. Livingston, Esq^{r}, Sec^{ry} of Foreign Affairs of the United States of America, Philadelphia.

SIR,—I do myself the honor to enclose to you copy of a letter I receiv'd some time since from M^{r} Deane. As he appears to be somewhat knowing in the counsels of G. B., I thought it not improper to return him an answer. You will find a copy of what I have written likewise enclos'd, and it is my duty to acquaint you that upon being laid before the General Assembly of this State this answer approv'd in both Houses,—nem: cond.

You will be pleas'd to lay both papers before Congress & the Minister of France; and you will judge of the pro-

priety of sending a copy likewise to Doct^{r} Franklin or our other Ministers in Europe. I likewise beg leave to recommend to your care the letter to M^{r} Deane.

I have the honor to be, &c.

Indorsed: Copy to M^{r} Deane, May 20th, 1782. Approv'd by the Gen'l Assembly.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

P^{r} Express. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, at Hartford, Connecticut. J. Root.

PHILADELPHIA, May 24th, 1782.

SIR, — Congress have judged it necessary to appoint two of their members to proceed to the southward & two to proceed eastward to make certain communications to the Legislatures of the several States, of great importance to the weal & safety of the United States, which otherways it was thought could not be so well done. The members appointed will set out next Monday & will probably be at Hartford in the course of week after next, at which time it is expected the Gen^{l} Assembly of Connecticut will be sitting. The particulars of the action between the two fleets in the West Indies seems not yet to be fully ascertained, but the prevailing opinion is that it terminated in favour of the French. There is a report in town, which comes out of New York, that New Providence is taken. The resolution upon your Excellency's letter respecting comissions to private armed vessels is passed, authorising the executive of the States to suspend & report such as misbehave, &c. Your Excellency will pardon the haste with which I write, as the express is waiting.

With the highest respect & esteem, I am,

Your Excellency^{s} most obed^{t}, humb^{l} serv^{t}.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL. JESSE ROOT.

Indorsed: 24th May, 1782. Jesse Root, Esq^{r}, *de* Comis^{rs} South & Eastward, rec^{d} 7th ins^{t}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Gov^r Trumbull.

HEAD QUARTERS, 29th May, 1782.

HON^D SIR, — We are very silent at present as to news, saving from N. York we are told that great plans of economy, reformation & discipline are practising under direction of Sir Guy Carleton, and every thing putting upon the best foot^g imaginable, demonstrating the abilities & knowlege of the General. Do these things look like speedy peace? I believe *his* ideas of that event are very small.

Our accounts from the W. Indies still continue very vague & uncertain; they are repeat^g *their* accounts from N. Y., but not quite in so high a stile as some of their first. The late hand bill makes 5 ships of France lost, & acknowledges 800 killed & wounded (English) & 25 officers.

Your dutifull son. J. T.

Indorsed: 29th May, 1782. Col^o Jon^th Trumbull, intelligence. Huddy's affair unsettled.

ELIPHALET DYER* AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 5th, 1782.

SIR, — We have only at this time to acquaint your Excellency of our arrival at this place on Fryday last, after a very favourable journey, making out between thirty & fourty miles a day, one day with another. We have been so little while in Congress as not to be able to transmit to you any matters of consequence since our arrival. Your letters to the President were seasonably delivered & tho Congress seemd to think Dean, or his letters in themselves considered, not worthy of notice,

* For notice of Eliphalet Dyer, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 131 *n.* — EDS.

yet they seemd highly pleased with your answers considered in a publick light, & ordered y^e^ same to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. A word has not been said in Congress with respect to the dispute between Connecticut & Pensylvania, tho some gent^n^ out doors employd by this State have conversed with us on the subject & propose a conference, so far as to know each other's concessions, to save trouble & expence, & indeed mention something about our agreement on the commissioners, &c. We are unhappy in Coll. Root's leaving Congress at this season, which was a few days before our arrival, & will render it improper for Coll. Dyer, being but one out of 3 agents, to act any thing in the affair, not only as Coll. Root's assist^ce^ would be much needed, but the power of one might be questioned. We hope his return will be hastned as far as possible, as every thing respecting that dispute must be postponed till his return. A news paper or two will give you all the news here, & perhaps will be only a return of what you have had before.

Are, with sincere esteem & respect,
Your Excellency's obed^t^, h^le^ serv^ts^.

ELIPH^T^ DYER.
BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

Indorsed: 5^th^ June, 1782. Hon^ble^ Eliph^a^ Dyer & Benj. Huntington, Esq^rs^. *de* their arrival, absence of Col^o^ Root, &c., rec^d^.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

AMSTERDAM, 14 June, 1782.

The 12 of Ap^l^ dated our last letter to your Excellency, & if we wrote no earlier since, this originated partly from indisposition of our L. D. N. & partly from want of direct opportunities, we had besides sufficiently foretold the acknowledgement of the American Independence by our

States that it was needless to confirm it, tho' we have not felt less pleasure at the completion of this great object of our wishes, and, as your Excellency always manifested a great propensity for this country, it gives us a double joy to congratulate you on the occasion. May this connection be lasting in proportion to the spirit with which the people here concurred to its forming, & may especially the effects be such as to make both countries the strongest guardians of their respective liberty. We have yet the great mortification here to see the worthy Baron Van der Capellen & Pensionary Van Berkel kept out of our concils by the remains of an adverse party which, however reduced, appears not to be totally extinguish'd.

The Emperess of Russia is now urging from another part a seperate peace, but that we think cannot take place; a general one was talked of lately, & even supposed to be very near at hand, but that business is subject to so many controuls they hardly think a certain dependance can be made on it before its actually taken place. We wish it on one respect, but as Dutchmen we cannot say we wish it, tho' at the same time we could wish our fleet to be more active; it is true by the French & Spaniards not appearing near the channel the enemy could unto this day direct their greatest force against us, and as these are now getting to sea it is to be hoped that we shall have more room to exert ourselves. From these reflections it is needless to observe what class of people among us were the great promoters of the acknowledgement of the American Independence, & we hope this will be properly represented on the other side & destroy some wrong notions that we understood had slip'd into Congress.

This over, our J. D. N. has resolved to retire, as your Excellency will see by the inclosed circular, which, tho chiefly relating to trade, we take the liberty to inclose, but tho' the writer succeeds entirely to the business, he

will not urge more what we did in our former respects. The loans for Congress are now in other hands, and for that reason if the State thinks of forming any it may be well to send somebody over vested with proper powers; for our part we will never solicit again for publick business; we have had already too much of them; tho' we deem it wrong to forswear the executing of any if coming to us in a manner we do like, but at any rate in the present situation of affairs we would not chuse to take on us the responsibility of having an order of that sort entirely vested with ourselves. The advice we gave in our former respects may, notwithstanding, subsist & be given to the person that should be sent.

We cannot help expressing, however, our gratitude for the confidence your Excellency was pleased to show to our house, & we beg that whenever our services in a private line could be agreable you would dispose of us as persons bound to you from that sentiment, as well as from our respect to your Excellency's character & the friendship we entertain for the worthy Col^{l}; with these sentiment we beg leave to beg for the continuation of your friendship & have the honor to be, &c.

[*No signature.*]

Indorsed: duplicate of the 14th June, 82, enclosed wth 14th Sept^{r}, 82. Mess^{rs} De Neufville & Son, *de* our affairs, rec^{d} 29th Jan^{ry}, 1783.

ELIPHALET DYER AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Ex^{cy} Governor Trumbull, Lebanon, Connecticut. p^{r} Mr Brown.

PHILADELPHIA, June 17th, 1782.

SIR, — Your Excellency's letter of the 7th instant was rec^{d} the 13th. We should be happy to hear that Mess^{rs} Montgomery & Root have been so successful in executing

their trust as to produce great & good effects to the United States.

The copy of the Act of Assembly transmitted by your Excellency impowering Congress to levey & collect duties on importations in our State was read in Congress, and seemed to meet with their general approbation. The caution therein taken to preserve our own rights, & to prohibit the expenditure of any part of the money so collected upon the half-pay-establishment, was particularly pleasing to some. A Committee is appointed to draught an ordinance to regulate the collection, but this cannot be compleated untill Rhode Island and Maryland have passed similar Acts, the other States having already done it. The only intelligence yet received concerning the engagements between the fleets in the West Indies is through the letters of British-navy-officers which leaves us still in the dark as to the truth. We are at a loss to conjecture what is the object of Sir Guy Carleton in sending an armament to the eastward, no account of their opperations being yet received. No intelligence from abroad has been had since our last. The condition of the public finance requires the most effectual exertions of the several States. The Financer's notes are in full credit & paid on sight, but the discount upon them in some of the eastern States demonstrates the necessity of a fund in every State to take up those bills when presented, which would take from speculators their arguments for a discount (viz) the great delay, expence, and risque of transportation of those bills to Philadelphia, and of the money back to Boston, &c.

We are, with the greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most humⁱ servᵗˢ.

ELIPHᵀ DYER.

His Exᶜʸ Govʳ TRUMBULL. BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

Indorsed: 17th June, 1782. Honᵇˡᵉ E. Dyer & Huntington, Esqʳˢ. On our Act for Duties of Importation. No accᵒ from French of Engagement in the West Indies. The Financier, recᵈ p Mʳ Brown, 28th instᵗ.

MEMORIAL OF THE TOWN OF BRANFORD.

BRANFORD, June 25th, 1782.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The Civil Authority and Select-men of this Town beg leave to address your Excellency & Council on a subject which to us is alarming indeede; to wit, the commertial intercorse constantly (as we have reason to beleive) carryed on between the people of this State and the enemy or the people on Long Island. Should the favourites of this trade increas as fast for two or three months to come in this place, as they have for that time past, it will be daingerous to attemt to prevent it, but by a military force; we are determined, however, if posable to surpress it; the people that live in the eastermost part of this town, and on the road that leads to y^e^ sea opposit to our Islands, (amongst which lives a number of Long Island people) appear to be almost universally in favour of this pernissious trade. A quantity of goods was lately discovered to be landed by a boat, some of which are seiz'd, &c., one of y^e^ persons is apprehended & commited; warrants are out for a number of others; but it is almost impossable, when they have once got safe on shore to detect them: we therefore request your Excellency that the State boat in this town, (and one other, if we can obtain it) may be commissioned to cruze in the Sound to detect this trade; and by instructions to be restricted near the north shore, excep in perticuler cases; and we beg leave to recommend to your Excellency, Cap^t^ Asahel Harrison of this town, to command s^d^ boat or boats, provided your Excellency should (with us) judge this a prudent measure, and to be under y^e^ direction of such persons or body of men in y^e^ town as your Excellency may judge proper. We beg leave further to represent to your Excellency, that the disputes & disaffection betwen y^e^ opposers and y^e^ supporters of y^e^

trade, is now got to a high pitch, y^e^ former much exasperated at the insults of y^e^ latter; indeed civil officers in town, of every denomination, as well as privet persons, are in some instenses threatened; an alarming affair latly happened, a person returning home in y^e^ evening was beset by two or three men, knock'd down, & very sevearly handled, and is thought would have ben murder'd, had not y^e^ assallents discovered their mistake, that it was not the man they aim'd at: it is probabel this happen'd in consequence of some oxens being latly seized & lybil'd; our guards have also ben threaten'd, and in more than one instance attemts have ben made to disarm some of them. There is also a person residing in this town, who is said to belong to Brookline or Flatbush on Long Island, very latly come from thence, and is of an infamus carracter, herds with the trading party, like beasts of the same kind; and is surposed to be making purcheses here, & perhaps of a small new vessel just lanched; and perhaps he ought to be treated as a spy, but we are at a loss how to proceed with him; request your Excellencies advice generally respecting this and some other maters, the perticulers would refer you to M^r^ Clark, who waits on your Excellency with this our request. Furthermore we are determined to hale up & secure (if not burn) not only all boats, but coasting vessels, which are strongly suspected to be employed to a bad purpose; provided your Excellency should be of opinion that y^e^ Act of Oct^r^ last for promoting of commerce doth not superceed y^e^ former Acts in such case provided; the meathods that now seams to be in practice is, to bond their vessels & when loaded go out & be taken, will be carried to York or y^e^ Island, and be at home on parole in six days; a glairing instance of this kind has been transacted by two poor men in this town, who ware not able four months back to rais five dollars scarsly, have since lost two small vessels & are at home on parole, & have ben able to pay

in hand to one man to y^e^ amount of fifty guinies in goald. Indeed so many different methods are taken & found out to continue the ilicit trade & to evade all law, & that so barefas'd; that we are even shock'd at the thoughts of what may, and probably will, be the consequences. One further expedient we have thought on, that is, to remove a number of the principal persons of this carractor out of town to sum interior part of the State, where your Excellency shall direct, persuant to y^e^ law of the State; hoping that y^e^ methods propos'd may have y^e^ desired effect; M^r^ Clark will be able to give a more perticuler information of these matters; and if y^e^ foregoing proposals should meet with your Excellencies approbation, and the town or place pointed out for y^e^ reception of those persons propos'd to be removed; if it ware in the dreary abodes in Symsbury we shall chearfully acquies.

We are, with every sentiment of esteem & respect,
your Excellencies most obedient, hum^l^ serv^ts^,
by order of y^e^ meeting,
EDW: RUSSELL, Chair-man.

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 25^th^ June, 1782. Civil Authority & Selectmen of Branford, rec^d^ 27^th^ ins^t^ p M^r^ Josiah Clark. Answered.

ELIPHALET DYER AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, July 1^st^, 1782.

SIR, — We early after our arrival at this place acquainted your Excell^cy^ of Co^ll^ Root's unexpected departure from Congress before we arrived, when the time for the appearance of the State of Connecticut in the great cause between them & Pensylvania was near at hand; we foresaw a storm arising, but were in hopes there would

have been so much candor exercised as not to urge a procedure in that cause untill Co^{ll} Root's return, but when the day arrived the agents from Pensylvania appeared & urged with the greatest vehemence for an entry of the non appearence of the State of Connecticut, & that Congress immediately proceed according to the directions of the Articles of Confederation to nominate commissioners & have them struck of, so as to reduce them to the number assigned to hear, judge, & determine the cause, which must have been done by Pensylvania agents on y^{e} one hand, & our Pensylvania Secretary on the other, whereby it may very easily be seen what a set of judges we should be left with to decide this most important controversy; it was moved by one of the agents from Connecticut (tho not authorised without one of the others to appear), that by reason of Co^{ll} Root's absence, by appointment of Congress on business of importance to the United States, that all proceedings in the cause be stay^{d} till the blank day of July, when Co^{ll} Root's return might be expected; this met with a surprising opposition, urging that every State must risque the conduct of their own agents, & that Coll. Root did not acquaint Congress with his agency for Connecticut in their cause, which if he had, they should not have sent him forward, & further that the Assembly of Connecticut was apprised of Coll. Root's return when he appeared before them & ought to have sent D^{r} Johnson forward or appointed another; these debates have taken up 3 or 4 days in Congress & are still debating & undetermined; but rather think they in general rather incline to have the matter lye without any determination untill Coll. Root's return, & it is without any doubt expected in y^{e} mean time that we write in the most pressing manner to hasten M^{r} Root's return as soon as possible. Co^{ll} Root's return must be hastned without delay; after his meeting the Assembly in the State of New York, which we understand are to set on the 10th day of this

month, he must proceed forward from thence to Congress, without returning home. You are, Sir, sensible that by Confederation the agents from each State are to indeavor to agree on commissioners, antecedent to Congresses nomination, which will take up some time, & we cannot expect to delay the matter beyond the 25th at farthest, when Congress will proceed. We have also laid in our motion, according to instructions from our Assembly, for postponing the trial of this cause till after the close of the war, especially as many of our material exhibits are in England, but this is & will be violently opposed, as they urge the necessity of all disputes if possible being setled before that time, & indeavor to impress Congress with the ideas that Connecticut wish for delay, only to get a more full possession of the country, &c., &c., & that they are willing to make such concessions with respect to the exhibits left in England, & are originals, as may supersede the necessity of obtaining of them from thence, provided we produce authenticated copys of them, or otherwise satisfy them of the real contents, which makes it necessary for us to be furnished with what copies or duplicate originals we have of those papers, for which purpose I have inclosed a list of such originals as are left in England which may be of necessity to be used on the tryal of said cause, which list if sent to Doctr Gray of Windham, Clerk of the Susqh Company, he will be able to send us an account of what of those papers he is possessed of, or can procure, if directed thereto by your Excellency; he also can make enquiry of the Comtee of the Delaware Company at Norwich for such papers (as minuted in the list) belonging to them, & of what duplicate originals or copys they are possessed of, & an account of ye whole we wish to have transmitted to us as soon as possible.

In one of our former letters to your Excellency we informed you that the copy of Mr Dean's letter & the

answer approved by our Assembly were laid before Congress, and that the answer as to the sentiments & reasonings therein were highly approved, but we find by conversing with many gent^{n} of Congress, that they wish that the answer may not by any means be sent or forwarded to M^{r} Dean. They imagine it was his great design to draw an answer, if possible, from so respectable a person or body as the Governor or Assembly of Connecticut, and which, if so, may be improved to purposes very prejudicial, give him the importance, consequence, and advantage he wishes & intends, beside it is tho^{t} it would prove derogatory to the honor & dignity of the State. We have reason to believe M^{sr} Marbois, Secretary to the Minister of France, to be of y^{e} same opinion, tho he appear well pleased to find the sentiments & opinion of our Assembly as expressed in the answer, yet wishes they had appeared to the publick in the same manner, as has been published from the Assemblys of Virginia, New Jerseys, &c. We beg leave therefore to submit it to your Excellency wether it will be best to send forwards the answer to M^{r} Dean, or if allready only gone to some port to be forwarded whether it will not be best to recall the letter if the ship has not yet sailed; tho as we were not attending our Assembly when the answer to Mr Dean's letter was proposed we are wholly ignorant & uncertain whether it was ever designed to send the answer to Mr Dean, but only to declare to the publick what the sentiments & opinion of the Assembly of the State of Connecticut were on the subject.

No news from abroad but what is contained in the publick papers y^{e} last inclosed.

Are, with the greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excell^{cy} obed^{t}, h^{le} serv^{ts}.

ELIPH^{r} DYER.

BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

GOV^{r}. TRUMBULL.

This is rather wrote for your Excell[s] particular information in part than for publick inspection.

Indorsed : 1[st] July, 1782. Hon[ble] Col[o] Dyer & B. Huntington, Esq[rs], *de* Susquehana Case. M[r] Root. For copies in the case. The letter to M[r] Dean. rec[d] 19[th] inst, sent idem to S. Gray, Esq[r]. 22[nd] M[r] Gray bro't some papers.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

COVENTRY, July 4th, 1782.

SIR, — I got home from our eastern circuit Tuesday night, and this afternoon set out for Philadelphia. Should have done myself the honor of waiting on your Excellency, but had not time. A strange lethargy seems to have locked the senses of a great part of the country & to pervade a majority in almost all the Assemblies ; what the consequences will be God only knows. I would suggest that it will be required of the States to sink their quota of old Continental bills. Massachusets & N. Hamshire have more than their quota in their treasuries ; these bills might be got cheap in Virginia, — the longer it is delayed the more difficult it will be to get them.

Have no news more than your Excellency has been informed off. I have been informed through the channel of a newspaper that I am again elected one of the delegates to serve in Congress for this State, it is with gratitude I acknowledge the honor conferred on me by the appointment, nor would I willingly decline any difficulties in a cause so important as the present contest & which lies so near my heart, but must tell your Excellency that I think it will be impracticable for me to serve any longer than the present tour, for reasons which at another time I will more fully explain. I thought best to give this early intimation to prevent any disappointment when I shall transmit to your Excellency my resignation in form. That divine support & aid

may be afforded your Excellency & heavenly blessings rest on you is the constant prayer of him who is, most respectfully,

Your obed^{t}, humbl. servant.

JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 4th July, 1782. Jesse Root, Esq^{r}, de languor, Old Continental Bills; his design to resign Deligacy, rec^{d} 10th inst.

ELIPHALET DYER, JESSE ROOT, AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Ex. Governor Trumbull, Lebanon, State of Connecticut.

PHILADELPHIA, July 29th, 1782.

SIR, — We had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 12th instant with its inclosure.

No further provision has yet been made by Congress for demolishing the Continental bills at our Treasury, it has often been moved without success; we shall move it at a proper time, if thought advisable.

Congress have just pass^{d} an ordinance regulating the Commissaries of Prisoners which we hope will expedite the exchange of naval as well as other prisoners. A plan is also in agitation for a general cartell, which, if settled according to Sir Guy Carleton's proposal to exchange seamen for soldiers, and that soldiers so exchanged shall not serve against America within one year, will bring on a general exchange. Congress have not given their reply to the above proposal, but will probably agree, with this alteration, that those soldiers shall not serve against the United States or their present or future allies within that time, and further it will be insisted on that the ballance due to the United States for support of the capitulants of Saratoga & Yorktown be adjusted & paid.

The approbation of M^{r} Smith as a commissioner to

settle the accounts between the United States and ours will (we hope) be a means of bringing those accounts to a satisfactory close.

An ordinance for regulating the Post Office of the United States is in agitation and will pass in a few days, by which some present inconveniences will be removed, and the revenue arising from that office increased. The State of Maryland have pass^{d} an Act granting to the United States a duty of five p c^{t} on importations, &c., so that the only States that still neglect are Rhode Island & Georgia, and by their means the whole measure is retarded to the very great injury of the United States, who have no other means to pay the interest of monies received on loan; that of bills on France being wholly stoped.

The Continental Treasury is very low, not more than twenty thousand dollars being yet paid in all the States for the expenditures of the current year, and unless the States exert themselves in collections the most distressing and ruinous consequences must ensue.

The Financer's notes and bank bills are in full credit & paid on sight, and are rather preferred to money by the merch^{ts} here, and yet a shameful discount is placed on them, and large speculations made by traders in distant States, without regard to justice or public danger. Nothing will prevent this evil but regular and effectual provisions for taking up those notes and bills in each State by the collectors or receivers of taxes, in exchange for hard money, & those notes be immediately delivered with the monies they may have collected to the treasury that the State may have the cred^{t} of it with the United States.

It is mortifying to see publications in all the papers on the continent that nothing has been paid in Connecticut to the receiver of taxes; might not large quantities of salted provisions on hand have been delivered to the con-

tractor for the Financer's notes and those notes negociated into the hands of the receiver of taxes?

* The agents of Pensylvania & Connecticut are endeavouring to agree on the judges to settle the dispute between those States.

We are, with the greatest respect,
Your Ex^cy's most hum^l serv^ts.

ELIPH^T DYER.
JESSE ROOT.
BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

His Ex^y Gov^r TRUMBULL.

* Hic labor, hoc opus est!

Indorsed: 29th July, 1782. Honble Dyer, Huntington, & Root, Esqrs, Delegates, *de* destroyg Conti. Bills in the Cont Treasury. Comissary of Prisoners. Sr Guy's proposal for exchg. Post Office regulated. On the £5 p ct duty, all have granted save Rhode Island & Georgia. Continental Treasy low. Bills on France. Financier's Notes current as Coin. Agreeing on Judges upon Susqua. Case, recd p hand of Brown, 7th Augt, 1782.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Private. His Excy Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. Benj. Huntington.

PHILAD^A, July 30th, 1782.

SIR, — I have secretly employed a person to enquire at the brokers to know the exchange between continental & hard dollars, as they are an article of traffic in that office, and find that the current exchange is and has for some time been at two hundred for one, and larger quantities might be had cheaper, provided the negociation could be made without being public. The traders from the eastward now in this place could take large sums in continental bills for goods, and would gladly do it, provided they could be assured of receiving the exchange in hard money and perhaps provisions in our State. I thought it proper to acquaint your Excellency with the above matters by this private letter, as a hint that may

be depended on, and perhaps improved for the benefit of the State, if within the power of your Ex^cy & Council; but I immagine that any public steps to purchase up our quota of those bills will increase the demand for them to a considerable degree.

I am, with the utmost respect,
Your Ex^cy's most hum^l serv^t.
BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

His Ex^cy Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 30th July, 1782. Benj^a Huntington, Esq^r, Delegate, *de* Old Continental Bills, their rate of Exch^a.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

CAMP HIGHLANDS, Aug. 4, 1782.

DEAR SIR, — I have this day sent, agreeable to your Excellency's request, returns of deserters from our line to Capt Hillyer; the spirit of desertion among us is truly alarming, and I am not without my fears that it will end in our speedy dissolution. The fifth regiment has had forty five deserted from it since the first of March last, *all old soldiers;* ten of them, we hear, joined Col. Thompson's corps, and received ten guineas each. It is not improbable the enemy have their emissaries here, contrasting a service without pay to one where such liberal bounties are given. If it is a possible thing, I hope a little money will be sent on to complete the month of March, 1781. Some of the clothing which the State has collected (particularly shoes) would answer well to pay the soldiers, — the new levies begin to be destitute, perhaps the State cannot do better than to advance them some pay in this way. M^r Morris gives us no encouragement of pay; he says the States do not enable him to furnish the army with bread and meat.

The June paquet is arrived at N. York, and Sir Guy

tells he has some new propositions to make, — from the point still, I dare say. It is credited that a French fleet is arrived in the Chesapeake. Report says, Rodney is gone home with twenty sail of the line.

I remain, with greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's affectionate & obed^{t} servant.

JED. HUNTINGTON.

I intend soon to send your Excellency a return of the soldiers for the County of Fairfield, and of the recruits received from the State this year ; they amount to about 360.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed : 4th Aug^{t}, 1782. B. General Huntington, *de* sent return of deserters to Capt. Hillyer. Desertions, intelligence. rec^{d} 12th inst p Lt. Col^{o} Gallup.

JABEZ FITCH* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The packet arrived in New York last week. A M^{r} Waite, a great genious, called from some of the New England States, came in her, who has powers from Parliament to treat with Congress; he went up the North River in a flag, expecting to be permitted to go to Congress, but was directed to return till the pleasure of Congress was

* The writer of this letter was the owner or captain of several boats employed in obtaining information as to the movements of the British in New York and on Long Island, and in attempting to break up the illicit trade between the Island and Connecticut. (See letter from Governor Trumbull to Governor Clinton, *ante*, pp. 248-251.) By virtue of a resolve of the Governor and Council of Safety he exercised an independent command which occasioned some friction between him and General Waterbury, who claimed to command "all the guards from Greenwich to New Haven." Presumably he was the person who wrote the diary of "Lieutenant Jabez Fitch, Jr., of Norwich," printed in the Proceedings of this Society, Second Series, vol. ix. pp. 40-91, and was the "Jabez Fitch of Norwich" appointed July 6, 1779, a captain in the regiment commanded by Colonel Levi Wells (see Public Records of Connecticut from May, 1778, to April, 1780, p. 355). But in the Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, p. 628, he is described as "Jabez Fitch, Jr., of Greenwich," and "Capt. of independent Co. of volunteers for defence of western posts of Conn. Captures tories on L. I. in '81." See also Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, p. 584. Apparently his head-quarters were at Stamford. — EDS.

known; his packet taken & sent onto Congress. It is pretty certain that independance is granted America. The refugees in New York are in a terrible rage; for by what I can learn independance is granted without reserve; that it is only recommended to Congress to let the refugees come home & live in peace. The city guards stripped off their uniforms, stamped on them, stacked their arms, & swore they never would take them up again. The refugees in general say there shall be a second rebellion, that they will go to France, join & fight Great Britain.

There are 13 sail of the line of French at New York at the Hook; a number of sail of vessels were to go down below yesterday to be sunk.

The illicit trade here in the small way has for some time back gone on at a pretty rapid rate; but the boats have taken so many of them that it is nearly stopped. We have come into the plan of destroying the boats whenever we catch them. We send a complaint to the informing officers of the town the traders belong to, & a number are bound over to Court. We talk of taking all we catch down to the Alliance at New London, that she may get her complement of men soon. I send by M^r^ Butler a number of New York papers. I expected to have had the London magazines of Feb., March, and April this morning, but fear they will not arrive timely; if they do not, the first opportunity shall be improved to convey them.

My boats some days ago took a whaleboat belonging to East Haven from Long Island, & in it was one M^rs^ Rowland, whose husband was a deserter from our army, taken & hung. She had, as she said, about £50 worth of British goods & said she had permission from your Excellency to bring them off, but could not shew it, & said about half of the goods on board the boat were hers, but has since made a bill which amounts to £89 odd, which covers all the goods in the boat.

I could wish your Excellency would give me something in writing concerning sending officers into the British lines.

From your Excellencies most obedient
& very humble servt
JABEZ FITCH.

STAMFORD, August ye 6th, 1782.

Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 6th Aug, 1782. Jabez Fitch, Esqr, *de* intelligence, recd 8th inst p Butler.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILA, August 7th, 1782.

SIR, — We have recd no information respecting the negociation for peace, said to be carrying on in Paris, but through the channel of British papers. Great tumults have taken place in New York among the Tory & refugees in consequence of the advices from England & the measures taken by Sir Guy Carlton in respect to them.

The garrison from Savanna have arrived at New York; unfortunately for us they had not been intercepted by the French fleet, which they very narrowly escaped. Some additional instructions relative to the terms of peace are preparing by Congress to be sent to our ministers in Europe.

A flag ship arrived this week loaded with prisoners from England, having on board 216 who are set ashore & permitted to go without any parole; another is hourly expected; this measure is in consequence of an agreement made by Doctr Franklin to have them exchanged. The enclosed papers will give your Excellency the news. Col. Dyer & Mr Huntington are well, as also is Mr Trumbull. The scituation of my family makes it necessary I should return home, & as the State will be represented I

expect to set out next week. With every sentiment of respect & esteem, I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} & most humble serv^{t}.

JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 7th Aug^{t}, 1782. Col^{o} Jesse Root, rec^{d} 1st Sept^{r} seq. p M^{r} Little. Col^{o} Root came to me 2nd Sept^{r}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Governor Trumbull.

HEAD QUARTERS, 7th Augst, 1782.

HON^{D} SIR, — A packet from England is lately arrived in N. York, with intelligence up to about the 20th of June. By a New York paper of the 3^{d} of Augst, it appears from a speech of Gen^{l} Conway in Parliament & some other observations, that a proposition had been made for the independence of America, to be admitted upon the same principle with that which has been granted to Ireland, viz^{t}, an independent legislature, but subject to one sovereign head. They also mention M^{r} Greenville being appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of France, & impowered to treat of a general pacification. Whether M. Conway's proposition is to be considered, according to the terms expressed, as the basis of this negociation, or whether the ministry will proceed still greater lengths, remains for time to disclose.

A negociation of some sort is undoubtedly entered upon.

The French fleet of 13 ships of the line is on our coasts. We have no accounts direct from them. Our attention is awake, & I could wish *that* of the States could be arroused; but a fatal lethargy seems to pervade too many, & prevents that activity which might prove essentially usefull to their interests at this period.

The complaint of *no money* obstructs almost all our operations, as well as spreads uneasiness too general among the officers & soldiers of the army. More desertions within a few months have taken place than have been known this long time, & prevails particularly in the Connecticut line, — 6, 8 & 10 are going off weekly.

I am, Hon^{d} Sir, your dutifull son.

J. TRUMBULL, JR.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 7th August, 1782. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, Jun., intelligence, rec^{d} 12th inst^{t} p Torrey.

ELIPHALET DYER, JESSE ROOT, AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, August 10th, 1782.

SIR, — Yesterday morning a copy of a letter from Sir Guy Carlton to Gen^{l} Washington was read in Congress, of which, so far as it respected a negociation for peace & the proposals of American independance, the inclosed hand bill is a transcript.

Whether these overtures are sincere on the part of Great Britain, & proceed from sound policy to improve the late brilliant successes in the East Indies & elsewhere to treat more advantageously, rather than risque the consequences of so formidable a combination against her to the events of war, and being convinced of the impracticability of regaining America by arms, by an open, explicit acknowledgement of our independance, secure to themselves future commercial advantages from a connection with us; or whether they are insincere & insideous, made to amuse only, to lull us into security & gain time for themselves, is somthing of a question; for Congress as yet has received no official accounts of the matter.

Congress have passed a resolution reducing the army, a copy of which is inclosed. The agents for Pensylvania and Connecticut have agreed on the judges to determine the controversy between the two States: they are as follows (viz) Gen^{l} Whiple of New Hamshire, Gen^{l} Green of Rhod Island, Cheif Justice Brearly & M^{r} Huston of the Jersies, M^{r} Griffin & M^{r} Jones of Virginia, & Gov^{r} Rutlidge of South Carolina, any five to be a quorum. The appointment of officers in the army from Connecticut was objected to, because some of them were said to be appointed in room of others who had retired, which wants explanation; but since the late regulation we doubt whether any new appointments will take place.

The memorial of the deranged officers in the Connecticut line for their half pay is postponed to the first Wednesday of Jan^{y} next; every department is exceedingly distressed for want of money. The necessity of vigorous exertions by the State is every day more & more evident.

The papers which accompany this contains the news.

We are, with every sentiment of respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} & humble servants.

ELIPH^{T} DYER.
JESSE ROOT.
BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

P. S. The hand bill above referred to is in the paper of to-day. M^{r} Root expects to leave Congress in a week or two; his family & affairs make it necessary.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 10th Aug^{t}, 1782. Hon^{ble} Dyer, Huntington & Root, Delegates. Judges between Pensylvania & this State — Susquehanna Case agreed on, rec^{d} 18th ins^{t} p Fanning.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 14th Augst, 1782.

HONR SIR, — Sir Guy Carleton & Admiral Digby, in a joint letter dated 2d of this present month, have announced to Genl Washington, "that they have it from authority, that the King their master has proposed a negociation at Paris for the purpose of a general pacification, and that to remove all obstacles to this desirable object, so much wished by his Majesty, he has ordered Mr Greenville his Plenipotentiary at Paris, at once to consent to the absolute independence of *the thirteen provinces*, as the basis of the negociation, — in full confidence however that the Loyalists shall be secured in their property; or compensation be made them wherever confiscations of their estates have taken place."

This declaration, by some means having got scented in N. York, has thrown the inhabitants into the greatest agitation imaginable, so much that Sir Guy has been obliged to call a meeting of the people to pacify their minds & to explain the matter to them, & even to publish the letter, wc possibly you may have seen before this & may be anxious to know the certainty of the fact.

How far the intentions of the British Ministry are declared in this negociation, whither in serious earnest or whither thrown out as a temporizing amusement, time must disclose. *On our part*, 'tho we most earnestly wish peace, yet we maintain our fears, — thinkg that dear bo't experience should teach us the most jealous caution.

Savanna, & consequently the whole State of Georgia, are totally evacuated, & it is said very confidently that this will soon be the case with Charlestown.

The French fleet will doubtless be arrived in Boston before this reaches you. Their appearance on our coast has been a most favorable circumstance to the trade,

which is again by this means opened. No British fleet is yet arrived or been heard of by us; it would seem the French have given them the slip.

Has the State disposed their salted provisions yet? If not, perhaps the French fleet will want it, — this army, I fancy, will have no more of it.

With the most affectionate respect,

I am, Hon^{d} Sir, your dutifull son.

Gov. Trumbull. J. Trumbull, J^{r}.

Indorsed: 14th Aug^{t}, 1782. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, Jun^{r}, *de* Intelligence from S^{r} Guy, &c. *de* negotiations for peace, rec^{d} 19th ins^{t}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Head Quarters, 28th Augst, 1782.

Hon^{d} Sir, — I acknowlege with much gratitude your favor of the 23^{d} instant p Mr Brown. The sentiments it conveys are entirely consonant to those which we wish, at Head Quarters, should be generally propagated thro the country.

Whatever reasons we may have to induce us to a belief that the British nation are serious in their proposals for a general negociation, yet jealousey on our part is very commendable, & if our fears should prove not to be well grounded, the error will fall on the safe side.

We are this day informed that intelligence is received in N. Y. of the near approach of the British fleet from the W. Indies, superiour to M^{r} Vaudrieul. This report is not altogether authentic, but the probability of such an event gives it much credibility.

We have good reasons to think that Sir Guy Carleton is possessed of intelligence some time later than what you mention of the 6th, and we are well informed that M^{r} Grenville, who come from Paris for an enlargement of his powers, & which enlargement he obtained, was

in London so late as the 15th June. The next packet must bring us something of importance.

I dont know what has prevented the exchange of Mr Stow; but at present there is little or no prospect in his favor. Another proposition is made for a meeting of commissioners for settling a general cartel for exchange of prisoners. What the event of this negociation may be time will discover; the enemy are pushg for what they call a generous settlement, & ground much on the sendg out our prisoners from Europe.

It is strange that we hear nothing from the Marquis La Fayette or Duke Lauzern, who have been long expected; may not their detention be in some way owing to the negociations on the subject of peace?

Is nothing yet collected into Connecticut treasury for public account? I wish that State may not fall too far behind her sisters. It will be really disgracefull for a State which has suffered so little by the ravages of war, & which has enjoyed (if I may say it) so many advantages, from their local situation, arising from the war, should be found to be the most backward in furnishing their quota for the general cause.

Most affectionately, I am, Hond Sir,

Your dutifull son.

Govr Trumbull. J. Trumbull, Jur.

Indorsed: 28th Augt, 1782. Colo Jonth Trumbull, *de* sundry, recd 1st Septr.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR. TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

Verplank's Point, 5th Augst, 1782.

Hond Sir, — The army moved to this place last Saturday, where they are now encamped & will probably remain some days.

The inclosed will shew you the certainty of the evacua-

* This letter is misdated, and Governor Trumbull wrote over his son's date, which he underscored, — "Say Septr." — Eds.

tion of Charlestown. The deputies from the town were to go out to Gen^{l} Greene & Gov^{r} Matthews on the 11th, to make such terms as they could for such as were to be left behind; and orders were published the same day by Gen^{l} Leslie, for all those who wished to depart, to give in their names to the Q. M. Genl's office, & means of transportation would be provided for them.

The inclosed address from the citizens of Charlestown is printed & reprinted in N. York; with what views I know not, perhaps by way of *hint* to the inhabitants of that city.

No packet is yet arrived at N. York; on the next arrival, we shall probably be ascertained whether that city is to be left to us or not; *preparations* for such an event are undoubtedly now making. The Warwick man of war of 50 guns, with 5 large transport ships under her convoy, with (it is said) 1500 or 2000 troops on board, left the Hook last Saturday morn^{g} bound for Halifax.

The British ships expected from the West Indies were not arrived at N. York last Sunday; probably they are waiting to attend the evacuation of Charlestown.

The news from the East Indies (if true), and the junction of the combined fleets in the English Channel, must be great events. How astonishing is it, that to this day not a single word of intelligence is given from the American or French Ministers, since the commencement of negociations for peace, nor a single line from M^{r} Adams, announcing the treaty with the United States of Holland. This conduct is unaccountable, especially as it is now almost six months since that event & no harm could have accrued, if he had mentioned it by any ship that sailed, even supposing 9/10th of the letters had fell into the enemy's hands.

Your most dutifull son, J. Trumbull. Jr.

Indorsed: 5th Sept^{r}, 1782. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, Jun^{r}, *de* Evacuation of Charlestown, rec^{d} 9th inst,

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 12th Septemr, 1782.

HONd SIR, — A packet arrived in N. York last week of Wensday. Accounts from thence since that arrival inform us that the Marquis of Rockingham died on the 1st of July; that immediately on this event the King, from his own prerogative, without consultg any of his ministers, appointed the Earl of Shelburn to succeed the Marquis as Premier, — some of the principal ministers takg this in petto, have resigned their offices, particularly Mr Fox, Lord John Cavendish, Mr Burke and others; that the principles of Lord Shelburn are totally opposite to those of the noble Marquis as to the terms of American Independence & a general peace, altho he declares that peace is a desirable object, & must be obtained from the necessity of the nation, but that independence shall never be consented to on his part.

The Duke of Richmond had not resigned when these accounts came away, but had declared his fixed intention to retire the moment he saw the least deviation in the present ministers from that plan of accomodation that had been agreed to [be ?] adopted by the Marquis's party, & that in such case the acting ministry should feel the whole weight of his opposition.

This change appears very unfortunate for America, as it fully appears from the papers we have seen that the late ministry were sincerely bent upon obtaing a general peace, & that upon the broad basis of absolute & unreserved independence to America.

The King's speech is also printed in the N. York papers, upon the adjournment of Parliament, which stands prorogued to Septemr. He declares that he ardently wishes for peace, & that he shall make use of the enlarged power given him by Parliament in such manner as to

him shall seem proper to obtain so desirable an end, laments the heavy expences and distress the nation is involved in by the *complicated* war he is engaged in, but trusts his people will not wish him to make a dishonorable peace.

Admiral Pigot with 24 ships of the line are arrived in N. Y. Little more than what I have mentioned has yet transpired from N. Y. since the packet. Sir Guy has communicated to us nothing. We think he will be much mortified, as he came out, not for war, but to effect a peace.

[*No signature.*]

Indorsed : 12th Septr, 1782. Colo Jonth Trumbull, p Capt Durkee, recd 30th instt.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull. P Genl Huntington.

Head Quarters, 21st Sepr, 1782.

Hon^D^ Sir, — Two frigates, we understand, are arrived from France in the Delaware ; unfortunately one of them was chased ashore by the enemy & is lost, with her captain & crew prisoners ; they had just time to send on shore their papers, their passengers, & most of the money. The passengers are, the Baron Viominil, Duke Lauzun, Marquis Laval, Prince de Broglio, & Marquis Sagure, &c. The frigates are said to have left France about the 15th of July, by which it seems there can be nothing new from Europe.

The loss of the frigate is very unfortunate, as she was a new ship of 44 guns, on a new construction, carrying 18 pounders on her main deck.

Our accounts from N. York are not very important. Sir Guy Carleton, since the arrival of the last packet, says "*he knows no object that we are contend^D^ for.*"

The com^g of so many French officers looks like a prospect of longer war, tho I fancy they are come off immediately upon the change of ministers, without knowing what would be the effect.

Our supplies to the army will soon be upon the most precarious & deplorable footing imaginable, unless the States exert themselves more vigorously in payment of taxes than they have hitherto done. All that the States have yet paid will not afford so much as one month's provisions for the number of rations issued. M^r Morris's other resources are almost out, & what will be the issue by & by it is painfull to contemplate. Cannot the States be stimulated to more productive exertions? or are their endeavours already strained to their highest pitch? If the latter is the case, I can only lament our situation.

I am, Hon^d Sir, your dutifull Son.

Gov^r TRUMBULL. J. TRUMBULL, Ju^r.

Indorsed: 21^st Sept^r, 1782. Col^o Jon^th Trumbull, *de* two French frigates, one run on shore & lost, passengers Viominil, Duke de Louzun, Marquis Laval, Prince de Broglio, & Marquis Sazure, &c., came out 15^th July. W^t comes out from N. York. Supplies for the army, *de* Taxes, rec^d 26^th ins^t, vespere p Torrey.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

SIR, — Since our last respects to your Excellency, of which we have the honor to enclose a copy, we are deprived of any of your favours, but tho' we for ourselves on public business have resign'd every claim, yet as we have begun the correspondence we think it our duty to continue giving your Excellency information of what passes untill you may have fallen on other means to get it.

The loan for Congress being opened as express'd in our last, we are inform'd that sums of some consequence

were subscribed at first, chiefly by those who acted from motives of patriotism, but from what we can collect it is not yet filled & shares may be obtain'd therein. However, a loan was lately opened for six hundred thousand guilders at Mess. N. & I. Van Staphorst for the State of Maryland, upon the security of one thousand hogsheads tobacco to be delivered yearly by the State at Baltimore to Mess^{rs} Staphorst's agents, & these gentlemen offering their guarantee for the interest during the ten years this loan is to subsist for, 1 p^{r} c^{t} to be annually retain'd by them, of the 5 which are the fix'd interest of the loan. In order to give more credit to this matter they applied to the city, & requested that it should take any share in this loan they pleased, which should have been granted if not unhappily some private disputes in the Council, as we are inform'd, had prevented it. We dont know, of course, what effects this loan will have, but thought it the more our duty to apprize your Excellency of it, because we see no reason why any other State, if good security could be given (that is such as would please our monied people) should now not follow the same example.

The fleets have done nothing last summer; the combined one having left the Channel last month to cover the siege of Gibraltar. Lord Howe has now sailed the [*blank*] from Portsmouth with thirty six sail of the line to relieve the place, the fate of which may of course be determined within a few weeks. Mean while negotiations for peace are said to be on the carpet again, with a likelyhood of success. We have learnt not to be too sanguine in our hopes about this, but should it take place that will we think be a very proper instant to form any loan for America, the credit of which will then dazzle the eyes of every body; many times the success of a similar matter depending more upon opinion than reallity.

Our worthy friend the Baron is still in the same situation. We had lately some faint hopes of his being re-

stord to his seat in the Councils, but, tho' it may be the case, we confess to fear much the contrary, unless the people who appear to take up his cause should force that matter, as it may be said they have forced the American Independence. M^r^ Van Berkel is just in the same situation, and that is, alas, saying enough. The subject that with a sensible satisfaction we can add is, that the spirit & sense of liberty appears to gain among us. It is perhaps impossible that a people should recover, after a lethargy of a number of years, at once all that vigour which animates new countries, and indeed our constitution is so framed that it is no wonder.

A war in Germany was lately talked of, but we dont know enough of the matter to form an opinion. We beg leave to repeat the assurances of the great veneration and respect with which we have the honor to be,

Sir, your Excellency's most obedient, humb. servants.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON.

AMSTERDAM, 27 Sept^r^, 1782.

His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq^r^.

Indorsed: 27^th^ Sept^r^, 1782. Mess^rs^ De Neufville & Son, *de* Loans, &c.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 9^th^ Octo^r^, 1782.

HON^D^ SIR, — Your letter in favor of Captain Redfield was delivered, & the General immediately gave him permission to proceed to Dobbs Ferry with his prisoners & from thence to the enemy's posts; whither he will be admitted into N. York, is uncertain.

The ineffectual meeting of the late Commissioners, which ended as fruitlessly as any preced^g^ ones, has put us in no better humour than before, & perhaps may close the door of communication still more than heretofore.

The Department of Marine Exchanges is entirely in the hands of the Marine Agent (Mr Morris), & the Genl wishes to have as little agency in it as possible.

We have no news at present. No packet having lately arrived from England, the enemy in N. York are as much at a loss for intelligence as we are. We only learn from them that their impatience is great for information from their Court, & that what they next obtain they expect will be very decisive. Their lines are contracting very close to the city, their outposts are calling in, & are makg themselves as compact as possible.

Charlestown I suppose is by this day evacuated. The garrison will probably be disposed, the British to West Indies, the foreign troops to N. York. Liut Colo Laurens was lately very unhappily killed in a little skirmish with the enemy near Charlestown, — a great loss! to very little purpose.

I am, your most dutifull son.

J. Trumbull, Jr.

Govr Trumbull.

Indorsed: 9th Octo, 1782. Colo Jonth Trumbull, *de* Capt Redfield. Naval prisoners. Cartel broke off. Charlestown evacuated. Lt Colo Laurens killed, recd 13th inst.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr, Governor of the State of Connecticutt, at Lebanon. P Success, Captn Hopkins.

Dupte.

Sir, — We cannot restrain from indulging our feelings in writing a few lines of congratulation to your Excellency on the fair prospect we have at present of an approaching peace. His Excellency Mr Adams having set of yesterday morning for Paris & the great point of independence being at last given up by the Brittish Council. Past disappointments have taught us in fact not to be

sanguine, but as far as human knowledge can reach, according to the idea of all we had an opportunity to speak on the subject, it appears almost impossible that peace should not take place; indeed, it may be already further advanced than we do know & from some appearances we should believe it is.

Therefore, rather than intend this as a letter of informations, we would consider it as one of anticipating compliments on an event which must cause the highest sensations of joy which can be felt in this world to all those whose wisdom laid, in the hands of Providence, the foundations & conducted it at last to maturity.

May your Excellency enjoy those feelings as long as any wishes will attach you to this life. We beg our compts on the occasion may be presented also to your worthy son, the uncertainty of the vessel's departure preventing our writing to him. We long much to be honoured with letters from both, & have the honor to be, with the greatest veneration & respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servants.

JOHN DE NEUFVILLE & SON.

AMSTERDAM, 19th October, 1782.

His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esqr.

Indorsed: 19th Octo, 1782. Messrs De Neufville & Son, *de* approaching Peace, recd 29th Jany, 83.

ELIPHALET DYER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Octobr 19th, 1782.

SIR, — Since our last by Brown letters have been received, & by other intelligence we are informed, that five of the judges or commissioners agreed upon to hear and determine the great cause between Connecticut & Pensylvania have accepted their trust, and propose meeting at the time and place appointed, viz., Genl Whipple

from New Hampshire, M^r^ Welcome Arnold of Rhodisland, Judge Brairly & M^r^ Huston of New Jersey, & Judge Griffin of Virginia. We rather think it unfortunate for us that Gov^r^ Rutlidge of South Carolina, & M^r^ Jones of Virginia have refused, & that we hear nothing at present from Gen^ll^ Nellson of Virginia. We had in our agreement much reliance on those gent^n^; tho the others have a good carracter for candor & impartiallity, the local situation of four of them are not so agreable as we could wish; tho' it is generally agreed that the extended charters of several of the United States will be considered as very material in determining the extent & limits of the 13 United States, when their sovereignty and independance are acknowledged in a peace establishment, to be improved against the claims of Great Britain, and to limit the territory of Canada. Yet those States who have not those extended charters affect to consider them in every other respect as vain and nugatory, & that every of the States have an equal right to every part which had not before the war been located and appropriated to individuals; which has occasioned many disputes of late in Congress, tho the most of the States claiming under these extensive charters seem willing to cede at least a very considerable part of their western claims unappropriated, to the use & benefit of the United States towards defraying the general expence of the war, which, if done to the satisfaction of the other States, would very much heal the present disputes and conciliate the matter; otherwise I much fear it may be productive of great animosity & contention which may terminate to the disquiet & injury of the whole. New York have made their cession without condition; tho I have but a little opinion of their right, yet it has its effect. Connecticut have made a reserve of the jurisdiction in their cession which seems to be disagreable, and for my part I know of no advantage it will be to the State; for the

fear of a considerable part of y^e^ State, and what operated strongly against our western claim some years agoe, was the extending the jurisdiction of Connecticut into that western country, that I could wish, if there is no more objection than I at present see against relinquishing the jurisdiction, that that condition or reservation in our cessions might be taken of. I am sure it would give great satisfaction to Congress, and imagine it might opperate kindly & beneficially in our cause. The cession of Virginia is still more disagreable, as they make a condition that the United States pay the expence they claim in defending & securing that country in some former as well as later Indian warrs, & that Congress also guarrantee to them the remainder of their western claim, which has wholly prevented Congress at present accepting the cessions. And it is proposed to recommend to the States who have allready, as well as others which have not, to be liberal in their cessions & free from embarrassing conditions & restrictions; as Congress suppose they may be of great use & service in securing and discharging the publick debts to enure equally and proportionally to the benefit of the whole; the deligates from Virginia give some incouragement of the liberality of their State therein, and how far the State of Connecticut may proceed I must submit to their wisdome & good discretion, but wish whatever is done may be done soon and transmitted to Congress without delay, tho I think they may & ought to reserve to themselves a certain extent of territory beyond y^e^ claims of Pensylvania, to make good in some measure their loss, if they should be so unfortunate as to loose their cause with Pensylvania, which I hope & trust will not be y^e^ case, but it is impossible to foresee the event.

I informed some time agoe that the copies of the Delaware purchase, the Indian petition & recognition, &c., were all agreed to and accepted as the originals by

the agents of Pensylvania. I requested in several of my letters to be informed whether we had not a copy or transcript of the 2nd Indian deed to the Susqh Company, the original being in England; that deed was not only free from rasures or interlineations but much more clear in the descriptive part of the land & territory thereby conveyd, but have never receivd an answer. It was that copy or transcript, if we had one, which was much wanted to gain the previous consent of the agents here to its admission, & if necessary for us to produce our first deed, ye last would readily remove all objections or exceptions against the first & have enured to a repeated confirmation. I hope a copy of the Earl of Warrick or Plymouth Company's surrendry, counting on the grants they had made extending near 3000 miles, will not be forgot, nor the copy of Penn's last petition to the K. & Council, which we had, & the agents pretend cannot be found here. I cannot undertake to enumerate all the papers & exhibits necessary in the cause, & which would be needless, as 2 of our agents are on the spot & a Comtee which was formerly appointed by the Assembly for the purpose of making the preparations for our defence on Mr Penn's petition, with many other gentn who are well aprised of what copies, evidences, & exhibits will be of use on the trial. I hope the gentn who assist me will come in season & well prepared.

We had the honor in our last to acquaint your Excellency with the late loan or subscription obtained in Holland by Mr. Adams, which by the way is ordered by Congress to be brot to America in specie, and to be applied solely to the payment of the officers & soldiers of our Continental army, also of the late additional benevolence of the K—g of France, our application for a further loan, (tho not favoured by the delegates of Connecticut.) The voluntary application of the K—g of Sweden for a treaty of friendship & alliance with the

United States of America, tho not at present to be publish[d] here. A Resolve of Congress for the commiss[r] appointed to settle y[e] publick accounts with Connecticut, to receive & destroy y[e] old Continental bills collected by our State; here, I could wish some way or method could be devised to sink y[e] remainder of our proportion of that once valuable comodity, as I perceive there will soon arise a great clamour from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, &c., who have very unadvisedly got among them a large surplus; in Virginia I hear it has been lately obtained @ 6 or 700 for one; it is in this place at about 300. I have applied to M[r] Morriss to forward the commissioner to settle accounts with Connecticut; he now informs me he has sent him his orders and instructions. We are informed by the latest advice that the British Court have appointed Mr Fits Herbert a Commiss[r] or Plenipotentiary from that Court, with full powers & authority to negociate and settle a peace with the States of Holland, and all other powers & states with whom they are at war, in which the British King expresses he has it much at heart that a firm and lasting peace may be established, Mr Fits Herbert to repair to Paris for that purpose, &c. This was done the latter end of July.

Your Excellency was acquainted that Congress had resolved to recommend to the several States to raise their respective quotas of 12,0000 [*sic*] dollars,* in order to

* In stating the vote of Congress, Mr. Dyer has made a curious slip of the pen. On Sept. 10, 1782, the grand committee of one member from each State, "to whom were referred the resolutions of the 4th, in order to assess the quotas of the several States of the 1,200,000 dollars, required for the payment of the interest of the domestic debt," made a report apportioning the respective quotas. Motions were successively made and negatived to reduce the quotas of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. A motion was then made by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Huntington, "that 33,200 dollars be taken from the quota of Connecticut," which had been reported as $133,200. This was negatived, Connecticut alone voting in favor of the reduction. Next followed a motion "that 13,750 dollars be taken from the quota of Maryland [$132,000] and added to the quota of Connecticut." Maryland alone voted in favor of the motion. Subsequently motions were made and negatived to reduce the quotas of New York, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. "The

pay the past interest of all the publick debts or loan or which might be adjusted & setled in America, as y^e^ only means to revive the sinking credit of these United States, & y^e^ drooping spirits of thousands in distress for their principal, or at least for a security of the interest, by which means y^e^ principal might become of some value to them, which was depreciating with the greatest velocity: the intrest on y^e^ first loans is stopd in France. Congress have since agreed to recommend to the several States to raise by a tax to y^e^ amount of two millions of dollars more towards the expenditures of the ensuing year, having reduced it as low as possible with an expectation that the further sum necessary will be procured on loan; the first, to be raised for the payment of intrest, is to be applied in the State to such of their inhabitants as have debts & interest due thereon, an estimate of the proportion as adjusted on y^t^ sum I enclosed in a letter to M^r^ Sherman; of the last 2 million I have enclosed with this. (On these I have to lament that it was not in the power of your deligates to have justice done the State in their proportion of these sums to be raised, notwithstanding our utmost efforts & exertions therein. It is well known I am warm, impetuous and persevering, Mr Huntington cool, steady and judicious; our joint indeavours were not wanting, but in vain, it is said Connecticut are a rich, flourishing & frugal people, they have great advantages, they must pay now, & when the estimates are made, agreable to the Articles of Confederation, all shall be put right: but however they were informed that tho we wished not to have Connecticut out of resentment withold what was right, yet they might depend upon it, when all was done, she would do justice to her self, as well as her sister States & to

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question being taken on the respective quotas of the several States, was agreed to, and the report of the grand committee confirmed." See Journals of Congress, from Jan., 1781, to Nov. 2, 1782, vol. vii. pp. 349-355. — Eds.

raise no more of those sums than her proportion, with whom she was well able to compare herself & judge with equity.

I have been here now near five months. I fear I have done you but little good. I expected to have had three del—s attending, which might have given some relief, & to have returnd myself before the uncomfortable season for travelling came on, but am prevented or must have left the State unrepresented, which I have never yet ventured to do. When I arrived I found myself unacquainted with the members composing Congress, or the course of the business, as the progress of affairs for several months in a variety of instances stand somehow related & connected, and I at present find a very considerable part of matters, plans & projections interesting to the States, inchoate, slow in progression, other occasional matters intervening, unfavourable time or season delaying, yet forming & ripening towards completion. When a change of members, in many instances of necessity, takes place and months are required to gain that acquaintance with men and measures as are necessary for real service & benefit to y^e^ publick, tho ever so well disposed therefor. I wish the gent^n^ designated for the succeding year may be here in season to commence the year, as it is known my time is expired, and M^r^ Huntington thinks he must leave Congress before or at that time at farthest; I hope y^e^ State will not be left unrepresented, we have experienced the inconvenience in many instances, New Hampshire has not been represented this summer, Rhodisland but part, the Massachusetts are in danger of failing soon. The low state of our finances, & y^e^ loss of publick credit, are truly alarming. But y^e^ reducing unnecessary expenditures, & chearfull & vigorous exertion in y^e^ payment of taxes, which are necessary, industry & frugality among the body of the peoples, all founded and springing from

a principle of virtue and true patriotism, by the blessing of Heaven may soon relieve us.

Am, with y^e^ greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excell^s^ obed^t^, h^le^ serv^t^.

ELIPH^T^ DYER.

GOV^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 19^th^ Oct^o^, 1782. Hon^ble^ Elip^a^ Dyer, Esq^r^, *de* Court in Pennsylvania dispute with this State, &c., rec^d^ when Assembly was closing.

ELIPHALET DYER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

Gov^r^ Trumbull.

SIR, — Am oblidged to let you know that my money is all expended, & am considerably in debt for my board; my having not recievd but very little of my debentures in the Sup^r^ Court or of the Assembly for 2 years past had oblidgd me to a very scant provision in cloathing. I brot with me only just what I wore, & that not fit to wear when I got here, was under necessity of cloathing my self with decency, so as just to bring me thro summer. I then expected to have been home early in the fall when I should not had occasion to have got more, but the cold season coming on oblidges me to provide for winter cloathing here. I had also the misfortune to lame one of my horses coming down, kept him a while in hopes he would recover, but to no purpose & was oblidged to sell him for a trifle, and must purchase another to get home; these & a few other necessary expenditures not chargeable to y^e^ publick will about eat up all my wages, therefore can neither stay here or return home without about as much more as I set out with. Indeed, I cannot leave y^e^ city without considerable; hope y^e^ money or bills will be for-

* This letter, which is on a half sheet, is without date or indorsement, but it was probably written at the same time with the letter which immediately precedes it, and which fills eight manuscript pages. See letter from Dyer to Trumbull, *post*, p. 397. — EDS.

warded to me by Brown without fail. Indeed, if I could get my own money due on my debentures I could be content, but I have served the publick so long without recieving wages that I cannot do it any longer, and must have them to spend & support me with necessaries while in their service.

This I wrote only to communicate as far as necessary to answer the purpose, and am with respect & esteem yours.

ELIPH^{T} DYER.

To Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

In a late letter to M^{r} Sherman I let him know my situation & wants; am in hopes he made it known in season. E. D.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, NEWBURGH, 30th Oct^{o}, 1782.

HON^{D} SIR, — The inclosed letter from the Duke Lauzun was given me some days ago to be forwarded to you.

The army having seperated for winter quarters, the General has again taken his stand at the place he left when we took the field. The American troops are beginning to build their huts; the Massachusetts, with the N. York, N. Jersey, & Hampshire lines, in the woods just west of N. Windsor; the Connecticut troops are at Westpoint & the east side of the river opposite to that post. Rhode Island are going to the northward, to relieve the New Hampshire. The Count d^{e} Rochambeau with his troops you will probably see in Hartford before this reaches you. The Duke with his legion has crossed the North River, & is on his march to Wilmington in Delaware State. Thus the campaign has closed for this season.

The packet from England has been arrived at N. York, for some days. We have had the news papers up to the

25th instant, by which it appears that they are very *choice* of the intelligence which has arrived, giving us little or no information. General Carleton is very close mouthed, and has been so for some time past, not hav^s^ written any thing to the General for five or six weeks last past. The fleet is ready for sailing, and are fallen down to put to sea; whether they will take troops with them or not, is unknown at present, but generally tho't they will. Some accounts mention that several British regiments are under orders of embarkation.

No news has yet arrived of the evacuation of Charlestown; some reports from N. York mention that orders are gone, since the arrival of the packet, to prevent it; others think to hasten them. What we have yet seen from the European accounts by the packet carry a very hostile appearance, and a determination of the King & Lord Shelburn to continue the war.

A reform of the regiments in the army is to take place, agreeable to the resolutions of Congress of the 7th Aug^st^, which will reduce our line to three regiments of infantry, leaving Sheldon's untouched. By this reformation no recruits will be called for to fill the regiments which will be compleat to 500 each only, unless appearances should be such from Europe as to demand an additional force in the spring. Massachusetts will have 8 reg^ts^ on the same principles, and one reg^t^ of artillery, which shews a disproportion between the two lines, conformable to the common mode of estimat^g^ our ability, which is as two to one. Connecticut ought indeed to have four reg^ts^, but their men in the field will not produce but barely three of 500 each, rank & file.

I am, Hon^d^ Sir, your most dutifull son.

J. Trumbull, Jun^r^.

Indorsed: 30th Oct^o^, 1782. Col^o^ Jon^th^ Trumbull, Jun^r^, *de* winter quarters, intelligence, &c., rec^d^ 4th Nov^r^ vespere, p Torry.

ELIPHALET DYER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Gov^r Trumbull, State of Connecticut.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov^r 8^th^, 1782.

SIR, — Your Excell^cy's^ favor of y^e^ 26^th^ ult^mo^ by Brown came safe to hand, with a most seasonable relief of 2 hundred dollars. I had receivd my new appointment a few days before, which must own I should have received with reluctance, had I not been oblidged to tarry so long for the trial of our cause with Pensylvania as would have probably brot me to a very uncomfortable and dificult a season to have returned home, but now conclude to tarry through the winter, as I suppose was the intention of the Assembly in my appointment. Am very sorry our delegates delay so long their coming, as the State must be unrepresented, perhaps for near a mon th, in a critical season & when they will be much wanted. M^r^ Huntington expects to set out on Saturday; he would tarry a few days longer, but as I must set out for Trenton on Monday, if he remained the State could not be represented, & which also must be the case if I should return in 8 or 10 days from Trenton, till the arrival of those gentlemen who propose to come. We are unhappy in not keeping up a representation of the New England States, which has been the occasion often of many things passing in Congress very disagreeable to them & contrary to the genius of the people there. New Hampshire is but just now represented for y^e^ whole time I have been here, but at y^e^ same time Massachusetts have lost theirs, & not like to be represented for some time; Rhodisland have been but part of y^e^ time. The winter season is the time to rectefye mistakes, as well as to lay out plans for the next season, but if the States will not take care of their representation, they must blame themselves.

Your Excell^{cy} supposes the Susqh. Company & those in possession ought to be notifyed, & to be allowed a voice in the choice of judges; it is true they ought & will have when their right comes imediately into question. The agreement & submission of the several agents was first so drawn as to have the right of the tenants in possession bro^{t} into question and decided at the same time with the general claim & jurisdiction of the contending States; but Congress would not receive it in that form, as Confederation had provided specially for them, & they would be entituled to another hearing and probably other judges after the rights of the States are determined, in which their particular case & circumstances will be considered: therefore not notefyed in the present cause.

The Minister of France was much pleased with the Act of our Assembly you sent me, discovering the firmness & unanimity of our Assembly in declaring against a seperate peace & their strict adherence to the alliance formed, &c. It carries great weight in the Courts of Europe when they find not only Congress, but the Assemblys of the respective States (which they think more fully demonstrates the sentiments of the people, their firmness & union) concurring in a matter so important & interesting; the King of France, as we are informed, when he had received intelligence that not only Congress but several States in the Union had declared (after overtures had been made to them for a seperate peace) their firm adherence to the alliance, and not to concede to any seperate peace but in concert with his most Christian Majesty agreable thereto. He, the K—g, mentioned it with peculiar pleasure to the foreign ministers & with a more audible voice than common, that he might not fail to be heard.

As M^{r} Huntington will probably arrive as soon as this letter, & will be able to communicate every thing needfull,

I might have spared troubling your Excellency with much I have wrote allready; have inclosed a list of the proportions of y^e^ several States which I mentioned in my former letter, with my observations thereon, tho after found I had omitted to inclose it at that time. M^r^ Boudinot of the State of New Jersey, a gent^n^ of good carracter, virtuous, & decent behavior, was elected President of Congress on Monday last for the year ensuing; the choice was clear, no strift, as it is the prevailing inclination of Congress, to proceed in course through the States when it can be done with propriety, Jersey having none before.

Am, with great esteem & respect,

Your Excell^s^ most obed^t^, h^le^ serv^t^.

ELIPH^T^ DYER.

GOV^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 8^th^ Nov^r^, 1782. Hon^ble^ Eliph^s^ Dyer, Esq^r^, *de* sundry, rec^d^ 16^th^ inst, p M^r^ Brown. N. B. Benj^a^ Huntington, Esq^r^, returned with M^r^ Brown.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esquire, Governor, &c., &c., &c., of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. T. Chittenden.

ARLINGTON, Nov^r^ 23^d^, 1782.

SIR, — Your Excellency, I trust, will be good enough to excuse the liberty I take in inclosing a letter from M^r^ Townsend, Secretary, (who is appointed by the General Assembly of this State to procure a Printing-Office erected) purporting a request in behalf of himself and the State for the liberty of procuring a sett of types from Long Island.

The necessity we are under of a *sett compleat* for carrying on the printing business of the State, & the probability of procuring them in the way M^r^ Townsend has premised, induces me to request your Excellency that he may be permitted to negociate the obtaining them from his

brother on the Island, agreable to the desire of his letter.

I would beg the liberty to recommend Mr Townsend as a gentleman that may be confided in, & would add that I doubt not he will scrupulously attend to any restrictions that your Excellency shall see fit to enjoin upon him in the matter, so as he can but attain the end of his request.

Your Excellency's compliance, by affording Mr Townsend the necessary permission in this matter, as it cannot be viewed attended with circumstances prejudicial to the United States, & at the same time peculiarly beneficial to this State, & Mr Townsend as an individual; so it cannot fail of being duly acknowledged, and in particular by

Sir, your Excellency's most obedt
& very humbl servant.
Thos. Chittenden.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr.

ELIPHALET DYER, WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON, AND JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Trenton, Novr 27th, 1782.

Sir, — The Court was not able to form untill Saturday before last; it consists of Genl Whiple, Mr Arnold, Ch. Justice Brearly, Mr Griffin, & Mr Huston, Gen Whiple is President of the Court. They entered upon business Monday before last; last week was spent in settling preliminaries & dilatory motions. Our motion to have the tertenants notifyed was ruled against us upon the article of the confederation, on the ground that their right of being heard would be saved to them hereafter. Last week we made out a state of our case on both sides & laid them into the Court. Monday this week Pensylvania began upon their exhibits & have laid in their

records & deeds that respect their Crown & Indian title; they are next to go upon prooff of their setlements, &c., made on the land. We find ourselves destitute of sundry important papers which are left behind; the letter from the Gen[l] Assembly to Lds. Say & Seal, &c., when M[r] Winthrop applied for the charter we have not, nor any authentick copy of Lds. Say & Seal's letter to him; the old Massachusets charter, and the setlement of the line between the Massachusets & Connecticut in order to give the course westward from Delaware, we also want. The Indians' speach, about the year A. D. 1766, we think would be of use, Ld. Egremont's circular letter to withdraw our setlements from the Susquehannah. The papers left in England are much wanted. We thought of moving for a continuance, but it was considered that it might prejudice the cause in the veiw of the Court, and thereupon we concluded to enter upon it, & go as far as we could; under the present circumstances & appearances we cant be very sanguine about the final success of the cause, tho we are clear in the goodness of our cause. Our preparations are not as we could wish, whilest no pains have been spared on the other side to prepare in the best possible manner.

We regret the Court is not full. The judges all appear exceeding candid & to feel the importance of the cause they have to decide. Your Excellency will please to excuse the roughness of this letter as we had not time to redraft it.

We are, with the greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obed[t] & humble servants.

ELIPH[T] DYER.
W[M] SAM[LL] JOHNSON.
JESSE ROOT.

P. S. We forgot to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's favour inclosing Gov[r] Hopkins deposition.

We have wrote to the Secretary for the paper we want mentioned on the other side.

His Excellency Gov^r^ Trumbull.

Indorsed: 27^th^ Nov^r^, 1782. Hon^ble^ Dyer, Johnson, & Root, Esq^rs^, *de* cause at Trenton, rec^d^ 4^th^ Decem^r^ seq.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Gov^r^ Trumbull at Lebanon, Connecticutt.
P M^r^ Brown.

Trenton, December 12^th^, 1782.

Sir, — Brown returned unexpectedly; we have but a moment to write. We have got through the exhibits in the cause. M^r^ Bradford & I have taken our turns in the argument. M^r^ Sergeant is now talking while I am writing. We feel the want of the exhibits in England & of those left behind which we mentioned in our last. The cause appears yet in as favorable a light as before we entered upon it. We shall probably get through the argument some time next week. None of us take up less than a day, & some have taken up two days, in the argument. We have no news except what comes from the eastward respecting the relief of Gibraltar. Neither M^r^ Wolcot or M^r^ Ellsworth hath come on yet. In haste, I am, with every sentiment of respect & esteem,

Your most obed^t^, humble serv^t^.

His Excellency Gov^r^ Trumbull. Jesse Root.

Indorsed: 12^th^ December, 1782. Jesse Root, Esq^r^, *de* Susquehanna Case, rec^d^ 19^th^ inst p Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN HANCOCK.

Lebanon, 23^d^ December, 1782.

Sir, — The Hon^ble^ John Wheelock, Esq^r^, will deliver this, which serves to introduce him to your notice

and regard; he is the son of the Rev^d D^r Wheelock, late President of Dartmouth College, and succeeds him in that office; and is employed by the trustees of that seminary of learning to undertake a voyage to France and Holland to sollicite benefactions for it; he hopes for an opportunity of a passage from Boston or some adjacent port, and wishes for your kind offices to promote his design, and that his passage may prove as little expensive as possible. He will comunicate more fully his prospects, and your love of learning, humanity & virtue will incline you to afford him every needful assistance.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully,

Your Excellency's obed^t, hble. servant,

His Excellency Gov^r HANCOCK. JON^TH TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23^d Dec^r, 1782. To Gov^r Hancock, in favour of Presid^t Wheelock.

EZRA STILES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

YALE COLLEGE, Janry 13, 1783.

SIR, — I received your favor by your grandson. I might endeavor to be prepared for the election, altho' I could earnestly & *most sincerely* wish to be excused, because I am sure I shall disappoint your Excellency & that very respectable audience. I pray you & them to be prepared to hear me with great candor & forgiveness.

Your grandson has behaved exceedingly well, both as to conduct & assiduity in his studies. He now returns to y^e for the vacation. I hope his ambition will ever prompt & excite him to that assiduous & persevering applic^a to study w^c may carry him to those acquisitions in literature w^c may render him an honor to his family & an ornam^t this seat of learn^g. I have the honor to be,

Sir, y^r humble serv^t.

Gov^r TRUMBULL. EZRA STILES.

P. S. We have appointed Huntington to sustain a part in dialogue at the quarters, w^c^ may indicate our opinion of him.

EZRA STILES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

YALE COLLEGE, Feb. 26, 1783.

SIR, — I received your Excellency's letter of 24^th^ ins^t^ by your grandson, whose absence shall be excused. I hope that by his improvement in science & amiable manners, he will answer your fondest wishes & become a useful member of society.

Yesterday I received a philosophic letter from a member of the *Academy of Arts & Sciences*, dated so long ago as 29^th^ Nov^r^ last. In it he says, "I had the honor of nominating Gov^r^ Trumbull to be a Fellow of the American Acad^y^, who was elected by the unanimous suffrages of the members then present. It has been repeatedly mentioned to me by the Corresponding Secretary, that the Governor has taken no notice of his official letter. It would be a satisfaction to me to know whether he has received the letter or not. I take the freedom to mention it to you, Sir, as it has been taken particular notice of by several members, & it is almost the only instance that official letters have not been answered by foreign members in Europe or America." I need not add to this extract. I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most dutiful serv^t^.

EZRA STILES.

Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 26^th^ Feb^y^, 1783. Rev^d^ D^r^ Stiles, *de* my appointment to be a Fellow of the American Academy, rec^d^ 28^th^ March seq. Answ^d^ 31^st^ ins^t^.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Govr Trumbull, Lebanon.

Head Quarters, 10th March, 1783.

Hond Sir, — It is very remarkable that since my arrival here we have had scarcely a particle of news more than what you doubtless received a day or two after I left Lebanon. No packet has arrived in N. York since November, & the enemy there, as well as we, are in the most anxious state of suspense; the general expectation, however, in N. York, is peace. A few days, I hope, will relieve us from uncertainty & decide, either one way or the other. I am sure we are in an ill way for the continuance of the war. No preparations, no payments of money, no exertions in the States, no requisitions from Congress, if peace does not come to us, we shall be in a miserable situation for war.

Mr Morris is so alarmed at the situation of the public funds, or rather no funds at all, & the little disposition that is shewn by the public to do justice to their creditors, that he has solemnly declared to Congress his resolution to resign his office of Financier, unless an alteration in prospects & endeavours take place. Some time in May is named by him as the ultimate bounds of his continuance upon present prospects. Who will succeed him under present circumstances I cannot divine, — no man, I am sure, in his senses, & who knows any thing of the duties of the office, will venture upon the arduous task. Affairs are in a more critical scituation, perhaps, than they have been for some time.

There being no arrivals, either public or private, in any part of the continent, is pretty plain proof that negociations still continue, & that nothing is determined. We have news from N. York as late as the 4th instant. All was suspence in that city at that time.

Providence is wise, & will govern better for us than we can cater for ourselves.

Your dutifull son,

J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

Indorsed: 10th March, 1783. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, Ju^{r}, rec^{d} p his brother, *de* sundry.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 18th March, 1783.

HON^{D} SIR, — The inclosed will serve for information & curiosity. The issue of the matter has been happy & honorable. Those men, who, under the pressure of accumulated distresses, & stimulated with such addresses made to their passions & feelings, are capable of acting so nobly, & deliberating with so much reason & calmness, are surely intituled to more than *justice*. They are deserving the *gratitude* of their country, — that country in whose cause they have spent the prime of youth & the bloom of their years, for the security of whose libertys & rights they have born toils, encountered dangers, endured sufferings in every shape, & for whom many of them have freely shed their blood.

The Washington packet, Captain Barney, is arrived in Phil^{a} under a passport signed by the King of G. Britain. He left L'Orient the 17th of Jan^{ry}; his dispaches from Paris are no later than the 25th Decem^{r}. These announce the sign^{g} of the articles of peace between Britain & America on the 30th Novem^{r}, but are only eventual & provisional, to take place provided a general pacification is effected between all the powers at war. The articles are as favorable to America, as we can have any reason to expect. The boundaries of the States are fixed to the great satisfaction of our Commissioners; the fishery allowed; & Tories, &c., referred to the States for restitution.

The prospect of a general pacification is somewhat doubtfull; but *hopes* are said to be preponderate over *fears*. The principal obstacle in the way lies with the Dutch, who are claim^{s} restitutions which Britain is unwilling to comply with.

The sailing of the grand fleet from Cadiz, which was expected perhaps about the middle of Feb^{ry}, will probably be decisive as to the negociations, and determine whether another campaign must be expected.

France has made another loan to the United States, part of which is arrived in the Washington; this small relief, altho mostly anticipated by the Financier, will give a little spring to our languish^{s} resources. The States *must* exert themselves, or all may be lost at last.

I am most respectfully, Hon^{d} Sir,

Your dutifull son,

J. Trumbull, J^{r}.

P. S. Brother John is able to give you the introductory history of the inclosed papers, with some attendant & preceeding circumstances. All is now very quiet, & expectations sanguine that Congress will make full compliance with their application for justice & for *compensation*.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(Circular) Philadelphia, 18th March, 1783.

Sir, — Congress a few days ago directed me to transmit to your Excellency a copy of the provisional treaty for a peace between the United States & Great Britain. I should have done it at an earlier day, without any particular direction, had not an order passed in Congress for furnishing the delegates of each State with a copy that it might be transmitted through them. In conformity to the second direction, I have the honor to enclose a copy,

tho' I have no doubt that I have been already anticipated by that forwarded by the delegates of your State. Yet, Sir, this letter may not be entirely useless, when it assures you that the conclusion of the treaty is still very uncertain. My public letters are of such a nature as not to free me from apprehensions that Britain still seeks rather to divide her enemies than to be reconciled to them. Tho' this suspicion may not perhaps be well founded, yet such conduct is so conformable to the general tenor of British councils, to the character of the King & his first Minister, that it is at least the part of prudence to be upon our guard against it. But whatever their intentions may be, the peace must still depend upon so many contingencies that no preparations for another campaign should be omitted on our part. None is neglected by our antagonists. They have voted one hundred and ten thousand seamen for the ensuing year. France continues her preparations, & will not close the war till she can obtain honorable terms for her allies. But little progress was made in their negotiations when my letters were written. Count de Vergennes has thought it prudent to advise Congress of this circumstance, that they might be prepared for every event. I communicate it to your Excellency with similar views. I doubt not you will avail yourself of this information to urge the State in which you preside to take such measures that they may not be found unprovided in case our hopes of peace should be frustrated.

Give me leave to renew my request to your Excellency that you will be pleased to send me as soon as possible three copies under the great seal of your State of the account which you have already transmitted of the damages committed by the enemy, together with the farther accounts you gave me reason to hope for. It were to be wished I had been able to transmit them sooner to our Ministers in Europe. I have reason to think they

would have been of singular use to them, & perhaps have tended to obtain some relief for the sufferers. They may yet not come too late to be useful.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient and
most humble servant.
ROB^{T} R. LIVINGSTON.

His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq^{r},
Governor of Connecticut.

Indorsed : 18th March, 1783. Office of Forreign Affairs, enclosing preliminaries of peace, rec^{d} 7th April seq.

JOHN AVERY * TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Lebanon. To y^{e} care of M^{r} W^{m} Hubbard in Norwich.

BOSTON, March 24th, 1783.

HONO'D SIR, — From an early acquaintance I had with you, even in colledge times, as allso from the intimacy of your son Jonathan with mine, his classmate, I have taken the liberty to ask a favour of you, if it be not inconsistent with the policy of your State, viz^{t}, to grant a pass from New York to New London for my wive's only son, George Spooner, his wife and two small children, who have been a long time (near five years) attempting to get to their native place in Boston, and lately to their mother Mad^{m} Bouland, now at New London. If our State wou'd suffer a discrimination of cases, have not the least doubt but that liberty might have been granted a long time ago, but at present they are afraid of attending to the most favourable cases, for fear of presedents & being over burthen'd with petitions till a peace is settled with Britain; even the plain case of M^{r} T. Brattle

* The writer of this letter was a son of Rev. John Avery, of Truro, Mass. He graduated at Harvard College in 1731, and died in Boston in 1796, at the age of eighty-five. He was father of John Avery, Jr., who was Secretary of State of Massachusetts from the adoption of the State Constitution until his death in 1806. — EDS.

has pass'd by a majority of two members in our Assembly against him. If your Excellency will please to attend to a short detail of circumstances relative to him and family, believe you'll think his case deserves favour & compassion. His store on the Town Dock was carelessly set on fire by the regulars in May or June, 1775, and lost his store with most of his goods, which reduced him very much, which, togeather with a bad state of health, he tho't it best to take passage with his family for Windsor in Nova Scotia (about nine months before the regulars left Boston) where he had money due him & lands, and all the inhabitants then in friendship with the United States; there he expected to serve both his health and interest, he taried there near twelve months attempting to get home to Boston, but cou'd find no oppor^{y}; then went to Halifax, and attempted several times to go to Newport for Boston, and had embarkt with his furniture, but the vessells altering their voyages, he was obliged to reland; then Newport got into the hands of the enemy; he was then disappointed of that return, and was obliged to tarry there till had spent allmost all he had, even his furniture; then he went to New York with expectations of geting to Boston, but not geting any opp^{y} was obliged to tarry till his brother in law M^{r} Simpson sent for him and family to come to Georgia, where he went and continued till S^{o} Carolina was taken. From thence came back to New York after near 12 months absence, where he now remains. He has been obliged to receive favours from his friends here or otherwise suffer. Never having been in any business of any consequence or any post (as I am well inform'd) while with the enemy, and tells us he has refused many beneficial places; has advanced to the State prisoners as much as he cou'd possibly spare; and very friendly to our prisoners, in advancing money & geting paroles; therefore as this short narrative I am well assured is truth, cant

doubt of your favour in this case, and that your known clemency will grant his request, and beg you'll accept of our kindest regards to yourself & family, and am,

Your Excellency's most ob^{t}, hble. ser^{t}.

JOHN AVERY.

P. S. If your Excellency should grant the above request a single line to Mad^{m} Bouland at New London, denoting your approbation will be very agreeable & pleasing to your friend.

His Excell^{y} JON^{A} TRUMBELL.

Indorsed: 24th March, 1783. John Avery, Esq^{r}, *de* M^{r} George Spooner, &c., rec^{d} 7th April seq.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, 24th March, 1783.

SIR, — I have the honor to enclose an abstract of the preliminary articles for a general peace signed the 20th of January, 1783. They were brought by a vessel that arrived last night from Cadiz, dispatched by Count d'Estaing to recall the cruizers & privateers of his Most Christian Majesty & his subjects. Tho' not official, they leave no room to doubt this happy event, on which I sincerely congratulate your Excellency. When the wisdom of the United States shall have re-established their credit & strengthened their bond of union, which will doubtless be the first work of peace, we shall have every reason to hope that this will be a happy & a flourishing country.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

ROB^{T} R. LIVINGSTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 24th March, 1783. Rob^{t} R. Livingston, Esq^{r}, Office of Foreign Affairs, *de* the Peace, enclosing principal Articles, rec^{d} 9th April seq.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO EZRA STILES.*

LEBANON, 31st March, 1783.

SIR, — I received your kind letter of Febry 26th last, on the 28th instant; thank you for the comunication of an extract of a letter from a member of the Academy of Arts & Sciences. I remember to have heard of the honor done me by the election you mention; if any official letter noticing me thereof came to my hand, it was delivered in a crowd of other business; since receiving yours I have searched for it, and do not find it. I ever have a grateful sense of any honorable notice taken of me, & especially by gentlemen of distinguished characters.

I thank you for your kindness to my grandson; in his last letter he desires my consent to ask your liberty to go to Saybrook for inoculation. I choose that he omit it 'till another opportunity, when it will be less prejudicial to him, and pursue his studies. He hath already been to much absent from College, I wish him to improve his golden opportunity. Youth are not apt to consider what they may hereafter regret.

I do most sincerely congratulate you on the credible intelligence of the restoration of peace on honorable & acceptable terms. May virtue, both moral & political, essentially necessary in democracy, revive, arise & shine brighter & brighter; peace and truth flourish throughout these United independent States; the arts & sciences be cultivated & daily increasing, and you made & continued an instrument to promote them, and enjoy their sweets. And may the short remnant of my pilgrimage

* The draught of Governor Trumbull's letter is on the blank pages of President Stiles's letter to which it is the reply (see *ante*, p. 404). Governor Trumbull was elected a Fellow of the Academy at its ninth meeting, Jan. 30, 1782. — EDS.

pass in tranquility and may we ever rejoyce and be glad that the Lord reigneth.

I have the honor to be, with every sentiment of sincere esteem & regard, Rev^{d} Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

Rev^{d} President STILES.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 9th April, 1783.

HON^{D} SIR, — Yesterday arrived at this place Cap^{t} Stapleton, D^{y} Adjutant General of the British Army, from N. York, announcing by dispatches from Sir Guy Carleton the ratification of the articles of general peace. This intelligence was bro't to N. York by a packet which arrived in that port last Saturday evening. In consequence of the King's proclamation all hostilities were ordered to cease, & the peace was to be proclaimed as yesterday in N. York & all the British posts. Dispatches are gone from Sir Guy & Admiral Digby to Congress. Our proclamations will be omitted till we have official accounts from our own sovereign power, which I hope cannot be long first. The particular articles of peace between the belligerent powers will be soon out in the news papers, those for America, which is our principal concern, remain the same as we have seen.

Thus Sir, after some impatience, we are at length fully assured of the great event which we have so earnestly wished for. May Heaven give us wisdom to enjoy it as we ought.

I am, your most dutifull son,

J. TRUMBULL, J^{R}.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 9th April, 1783. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, J^{r}, *de* Peace, rec^{d} 15th ins^{t}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 23d April, 1783.

HONR SIR, — The declaration for cessation of hostilities was proclaimed in the army on Saturday last amidst joyfull acclamations. The proclamation being read, three hearty cheers were given, after which a pertinent prayer of acknowlegment & thanksgiving was addressed to the Supreme Author of all our blessings, by one of the Chaplains of the army, accompanied with the devout attention of the hearers. This solemnity was followed with some choice peices of church music & one anthem particularly suited for the occasion, & the whole closed with a cheerfull & decent libation, in which the officers partook with social joy & decent conviviality.

We know nothing of the time set for the evacuation of N. York. 'Tis suspected that Sir Guy is willing to wait the success of the recommendation of Congress in favor of the Tories, that he may know how to dispose of them. 'Tis pity the resentments of the people run so high. I *fear* it will be the means of prolonging the possession of N. York by the British, if not produce some more unfortunate consequences. Our country will want inhabitants; the refugees, a few characters excepted, might perhaps with proper policy become very good citizens of the United States when forsaken by their British friends.

I am, your most dutifull son,

J. TRUMBULL, JUNR.

GOVR TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23d April, 1783. Colo Jonth Trumbull, Junr, *de* rejoycings, &c, recd 28th idem.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, May 13th, 1783.

SIR, — Little has occurred here worth your Excellency's notice since Col° Dyer addressed you by Messenger Brown.

An interview has been had between General Washington & Sir Guy Carleton at Orange-town, for sundry purposes relating to the execution of the 7th article of the provisional treaty. Every assurance is given by the latter that New York with Penobscot shall be evacuated as soon as the shipping necessary for that purpose can be procured, which he has sent for. Commissioners on the part of the United States are appointed to superintend, with others on the part of the British, the embarkation, to prevent any property being carried away which by the treaty is stipulated to be left. It is not probable that our army will disband till the embarkation takes place.

The army are like to be furnished with three months pay at the time of disbanding. Part of it must be a paper anticipation. Mr Morris will continue in office until the engagements necessary to be entered into for that purpose shall be discharged. The troops of the southern army composing the Pennsylvania, Maryland & Virginia lines are sent for to be brought into their respective States, in order to their being discharged. Congress are now busyed in reducing as fast as may be the publick expenditures, & setling the necessary peace arrangements. A plan of revenue for funding the publick debt, which has taken up much time in Congress, will be immediately forwarded for the consideration of the States, accompanied with the documents necessary to give information relating to that important subject. As was natural to expect at the close of so long a war, we find

a considerable debt on our hands, which, all will agree, it much concerns our national character & prosperity to provide for, how various so ever may be the opinions as to the mode of doing it. It is, I think, Sir, also of much importance at this time that the accounts of the several States with the United States should be liquidated & brought to an equitable adjustment. Unless this is done it will be impossible to preserve mutual confidence & a good understanding among them, or to obviate the objections which almost every one in its turn makes against complying with the requisitions necessary for the common interest & safety. Commissioners for liquidating those accounts are now gone & going into the States. The necessary instructions to the one nominated for Connecticut, I understand by M^{r} Morris, are sent forward, & hope, if he is approved by the State, he will be able immediately to proceed to business.

We are not yet, Sir, favoured with the definitive treaty of peace, which is now daily expected. The completion of it is supposed to have been somewhat delayed to consult the approbation of the Emperor of Germany & the Emperess of Russia, who particularly interested themselves in the restoration of a general peace.

By the inclosed paper your Excellency will perceive that another change has taken place in the British ministry. Not seeming in a humour to be satisfied, that fickle nation one day sacrifices a premier for continuing the war & the next day another for putting an end to it. The truth perhaps is, that Great Britain, not having been able to accomplish her purposes either by figting or treating, finds it more convenient to charge the failure on a dificiency in her servants, than to acknowledge, what the world perceives to be the case, a deficiency in her resources & power. It is no secret that her debt is so increased as to require, together with her peace establishment, a million & a half annually more than

her revenue amounts to. This circumstance alone made it necessary for her at all events to purchase peace, and will probably be a sufficient security for her good behaviour for a long while yet to come. Neither the safety of this country, or the ballance & peace of Europe requires that Great Britain should be at all more reduced than she in fact is. And it is by avoiding that distraction of counsels & corruption of manner which have brought her down that America can hope to rise, or long enjoy the blessings of a revolution which under the auspices of Heaven she has gloriously compleated.

I am informed by Col° Dyer that he expects Judge Huntington will soon come forward to Congress to releive him. I have to request, Sir, that some gentleman of the delegation may also soon come forward to releive me. I expect to be under the necessity of returning in the month of June at farthest.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
with great respect & consideration,
Your Excellency's most obed^t^, humb^l^ serv^t^.
OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 13^th^ May, 1783. Hon^ble^ Ol. Ellsworth, Esq^r^, *de* Sundry & a Delegate to supply his place, rec^d^ p M^r^ Wadsworth, 26^th^ inst.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 14^th^ May, 1783.

HON^D^ SIR, — I returned a few days ago from attend^g^ the General at an interview with Sir Guy Carleton. The two Generals met at Orange Town about 20 miles above N. York ; their meeting was cordial & polite, Gen^l^ Carleton dining with Gen^l^ Washington the first day, & the American General with the British the next, the first on shore, the other on board a frigate which bro't Sir Guy from N.

York. Their conference was frank & open, tho' not bro't to that decisive issue that could have been wished on our part. Unhappily Sir Guy was taken very ill, & was obliged to return before our business was compleated. The great delay of evacuating the city, it seems, will arise from the amazing incumbrance which hangs upon him from the Tories & refugees, who he finds himself obliged to protect & secure, as the disposition of the States, especially to the northward, appears very averse to their remain^{g} in the country. The number of these is great, & they must be removed before he can take away the troops; this will take his transports for some time. But on the whole he appears disposed to quit the country as soon as possible, & says that his desire will lead him to anticipate, if possible, our wishes, tho his final departure is dependant on so many contingents, that it is not in his power to name any fixed period.

The army are at present tolerably quiet, but waiting with some impatience for the arrival of the definitive treaty, which must fix the period of their discharge.

His Excellency wishes an answer to his letter respecting the accounts of the State for final settlement with our troops. He has heard nothing from you since writing that letter, but sees with a degree of surprise the advertisement of the pay table committee nam^{g} so distant a day as the 15th of June for the accounts to be delivered into their office; from this dilatory call, it is imagined the State have no great idea of a settlement being effected, or that they have no expectation of an early discharge of the army. I wish you would be pleased to acknowlege the Gen$^{l's}$ letter, if no more.

I am, Hon^{d} Sir, your dutifull son,

J. Trumbull, Ju^{r}.

Gov^{r} Trumbull.

Indorsed: 14th May, 1783. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, Jun^{r}, *de* interview of the Generals. Settlement wth the Army, rec^{d} 17th ins^{t}.

ELIPHALET DYER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, May 21st, 1783.

SIR, — I have been impatiently waiting some weeks in hopes & expectation that some gentleman in delegation from the State of Connecticut would arrive to my relief, and with Mr. Ellsworth represent that State in Congress. I most sincerely wish Connecticut & every other State to be represented; I wish the New England States to be represented; I wish they had not suffered for want of a full representation. When I consented to attend Congress the last time I understood it to be the mind of the Assembly that 3 should attend from that State in so critical a season, but that has been ye case but for a little time in ye course of the year. It is unhappy to have a State divided, which sometimes must be ye case when but two, or yield & condescend ye one to the other. It is very inconvenient that a member cannot be absent, whatever ye occasion may be, but it leaves the State unrepresented. I have been urged, I have tarried, I have never heretofore left the State unrepresented, tho it has freequently been done, & I believe to good satisfaction; but I begin to be apprehensive that as long as I tarry no gentn will come forward, for I believe no one is fond of being here, am therefore determined by the leave of Providence to set out on my return in a very few days. I think I cannot be blaimed, I hope & trust I shall be excused, & as I expect to be at Hartford before ye Assembly rises, renders it unnecessary for me to enlarge in this letter, and nothing new of importance to communicate. Am, with the greatest esteem and regard,

Your Excellcy most obedt, hle servt

ELIPHT DYER.

Govr TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 28th May, 1783.

HONᴰ SIR, — A ship arrived a few days ago from England to N. York, which bro't no news, but that at the first of April no administration had been formed; the nation having then been six weeks in that state. Mʳ Pitt had resigned his Chancellorship, which added to the embarrassment. A debate was held in Parliament on the 31st Mar. on the propriety of addressing the King on the deplorable state of the kingdom for want of an ostensible ministry.

This situation delays all business, prevents our receivᵍ the definitive treaty, & is the occasion that Sir Guy Carleton has no dispatches, instructions or orders. Congress are equally without information. Embarkations at N. York are slow, and the evacuation of the city goes lingering on.

I am, Hondˢ Sir, your dutifull son,

J. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 28th May, 1783. Colº Jonth Trumbull, Junr, *de* intelligence. No ministry in G.B. Embarrassments, recd 31st instᵗ.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 4th, 1783.

SIR, — Colº Dyer has so lately left Congress & will fully inform of the state of affairs to that time, as leaves me very little to acquaint your Excellency with.

A packet just arrived at New York from Falmouth, it is reported, brings information that the definitive treaty was signed, & that the British are to leave this coast at farthest by the 1st of Augᵗ. The packet also brings a list of the new British Ministry established the 2ᵈ of April, which I take the liberty to inclose. From the strange coalition of

which it is formed, there is little reason to doubt but that another change, of a partial nature, will follow as soon as the present convulsed state of that nation shall have subsided. Lord North, who is the fixed favorite of his sovereign & a man of the most system, business & address, will easily find means to lay aside M^r^ Fox & his coadjutors when he can well do without them, as he has already done with regard to one set of opponents whom he let come forward to perish in the odium of executing measures which himself had rendered necessary.

A letter from M^r^ Dumas to the Secretary of Forreign Affairs, advises that M^r^ Vanbercle, Ambassador from their High-Mightinesses the States General to these United was to sail for America the 1^st^ of this month. A question which has been more than once agitated in Congress on the expediency of an interchange of ministers with forreign courts, except on special occasions, is yet undecided & probably will receive no direct decision. While, on the one hand, respectability abroad, facility of acquiring & of communicating useful information, & the long established custom of all European nations, except the uncivilized Turk & the mountain barricaded Swiss, plead strongly in the affirmative, considerations of œconomy & simplicity of manners, so necessary to be observed in republicks, & factious intrigues, so necessary for them to avoid, have much weight in the opposite scale.

Congress have appointed Oliver Pollock, Esq^r^, late agent of these United States at New Orleans, their agent to reside at the Havannah. It is to be hoped we shall not ultimately fail of the valuable trade to that island, tho' its ports are at present shut against us, owing, it is said, in some measure to abuses committed there under the American flagg by foreigners who wished to render it obnoxious.

We hear from the Assembly of Virginia that the House of Delegates, notwithstanding they so unanimously &

recently voted a repeal of their Act granting to the United States the impost first recommended by Congress, had given liberty for a bill to be brought in for complying with the requisition of the impost as it now stands, & that there was a great probability the Act would pass. This is the only Assembly from which we have yet heard upon that subject, & from which, next to that of Rhod Island, the greatest opposition was apprehended.

A very liberal offer is made by Maryland to induce Congress to fix its residence at Annapolis. One less so had before been made by the State of New York of the town of Kingstown. Which, or whether either of them, will be accepted is uncertain; tho' it is generally agreed that Congress should remove to a place of less expence, less avocation & less influence than are to be expected in a commercial & opulent city.

I hope, Sir, M^r^ Huntington, who has long been expected & is at present much needed in Congress, will soon be here; & that with him or very soon after, some other gentleman of the delegation will also come forward, that I may be at liberty soon to return home, which it will be necessary for me to do.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
Sir, your Excellency's most obed^t^, hum^l^ serv^t^.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 4^th^ June, 1783.

HON^D^ SIR, — A resolution of Congress of the 26^th^ ult^o^ has directed that the men of the army inlisted for the war shall be furloughed untill the arrival of the definitive treaty of peace; at which period they are to be discharged. Measures for carrying this Act into effect are now taking.

Discharges are prepared and will be delivered to the men, with an endorsement on the back, purport^{g} that the certificate is not to avail the bearer as a discharge until the arrival & ratification of the definitive treaty, at which time it is to operate to every effect. The men are to be marched to their respective States by a proportion of officers, & to disperse as they please, being born on their rolls for pay untill their discharge shall prove operative.

Pleasing & agreeable as this event would otherwise be, it is a very disagreeable circumstance that the brave & virtuous fellows should be obliged to quit the field, after having endured every species of hardship & distress, without tak^{g} at last one peney of their pay in their pockets; this circumstance is distressing beyond measure; the officers have born almost beyond sufferance. The *General* feels it, & is wounded; he feels but cannot allay the troubles of his worthy companions. They see *his wounds* & cannot but feel for *his* distress on this occasion. But fatal necessity must make them submit; — unhappy lot! unhappy scituation! — and yet perhaps these suffering worthies are to return to their homes, the aversion of their neighbours, the scorn of their fellow citizens, without one generous acknowlegment of their suffering virtues & envied for the debt that necessity leaves due to them.

I almost fear sometimes that the suffering lot of these brave men will prove too hard for their patient virtues; and yet the experience we have had of their patriotism & firm attachment to their duty hitherto gives us confidence in their perseverance to the end. For their own sakes, for the honor of themselves, & of human nature, I wish it may. And if they must fall a sacrifice to their virtues, that they may fall with honor, that their country in the hour of her return^{g} reflection may blush at the cruel imposition to which they have com-

pelled their worthy brethren to submit, and at last be willing to do them justice.

I am, your dutifull son,

J. T——LL.

PETER COLT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jon. Trumbull, Esquire, Present.

HARTFORD, June 9th, 1783.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — By request of Cap^{t} Dan^{l} Lyman of the Prince of Wales American Reg^{t}, I have to ask the favour of a pasport for him to come to New Haven to see his father & other relations, previous to his taking leave of this his native country. He expects soon to leave N. York for Nova Scotia, & wishes to have liberty to take leave of his relations in this State. His father is anxious for this meeting, as they were conserned in merchantile business before the war, & he going away unbeknown to his father left their matters in an unsetled state, & such they remain to this day. Should your Excellency upon consulting with your Council grant him a pasport, I have further to request leave for his wife to accompany him, with leave to come to Hartford for a few days. As Cap^{t} Lyman has no expectations of remaining in the country, I cannot conceive any injury can arrise from indulging him in this request; he will sign any parole that your Excellency may judge proper whilst he remains here.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most ob^{t}, hum^{l} servant.

PETER COLT.

His Excellency JON. TRUMBULL, Esquire.

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* For a notice of Peter Colt, see 7 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ii. p. 401 *n.* — EDS.

JOHN WHEELOCK * TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HAGUE, 15th June, 1783.

SIR, — From your Excellency's kind attention and influence in favor of the humane and pious design which is my object; and from your love and services for mankind, I esteem it my duty to be attentive in my address to you. It has long been my wish to do it, but in vain without materials.

The introduction, Sir, to Doctr Franklin, with which you honored me, procured much politeness and kindness. For certain reasons it was thought proper to suspend the design at Paris. Accordingly our stay in that city was short; and from thence we proceeded directly to Amsterdam. Mr de Neufville was very happy in the reception of your favor. Probably you have received a letter from him before this time, as he intended writing. We could not wish for more kindness, than we received at his house, nor greater friendship to our cause, than his exertions manifested. I have just heard to my great sorrow & surprize that his fate in the commercial world is very unhappy. This, Sir, will be very unexpected news to you.

We saw afterwards the Baron Capellan, who desired me to communicate his most dutiful compliments to you. He gave me no incouragement in the affair, and thought it, under present circumstances, even improper to use his own influence. We were introduced to other gentlemen, who had been reputed the greatest friends to the prosperity of our land, but obtained as little favor from them. The design was, in truth, discouraged instead of

* John Wheelock, LL.D., second President of Dartmouth College, was born in Lebanon, Conn., Jan. 28, 1754, and graduated at Dartmouth with the first class, in 1771. In 1779 he was chosen to succeed his father in the presidency of the college. In 1783 he was sent to Europe to raise funds for the institution. He died in Hanover, N. H., the seat of the college, April 4, 1817. It was during his administration that the unsuccessful attempt was made from political motives to change the charter of the college. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. p. 456. — EDS.

being promoted. Your Excellency will at once imagine that our disappointment was great.

That the design is humane & charitable, and is the common interest of the good in every land, your knowledge is a sufficient voucher. It must, then, Sir, be affecting, that such a cause should be considered and treated in a political and commercial light. But this was too much the case with those to whom we at first applied, those who had made open & large professions of friendship for America. Some objected to the promotion of the affair until they could be convinced that our country would trade with Holland, and not with England, as, they said, they had reason to suspect. They seemed to think that America was under very peculiar obligations to these States for the services they had rendered; and that it was extraordinary application should be made by Christians for their benevolence to a pious cause before the American States had entered into a treaty of commerce to trade with them.

In this situation, may it please your Excellency, I thought it expedient to alter my measures; and accordingly turned my attention to the Court.

You are doubtless, Sir, acquainted with Doct^{r} Maulaine by his works, a gentleman of very peculiar merit & endowments; to him I was favored with an introduction by M^{r} Adams. He rendered the best services to the plan, that could be desired. It was introduced and approved of by the whole Court. Their Serene and Royal Highnesses, the *Prince* and *Princess* of *Orange*, favored it with their particular countenance and munificence.

At Haarlem it has been attended with success under the influence and friendship of M^{r} L'Estevenon, the Baron of Hasorswoude. And had those promoted the design who, (before the tryal was made) we should have thought in America, would be the most desirous of favoring it, the affair would have succeeded well through all this country.

I fear to make this letter too long; but pardon me, Sir, in turning a moment to the political state of these Netherlands; for I perswade myself, if I can find the truth, it will not be unacceptable.

The parties in this government are of the same nature that they were in the time of William the 1st, and his successors, to the present Prince. It is needless to mention, that one party is inclined to the House of Orange; that the other, being opposed, denominate themselves the Republicans, that the first, as they ever have been, so they are at present, attached to the House of *Hanover;* that the other, as formerly, so now, are attached to the House of *Bourbon.* The continual oppositions between France and England are illustrated in these parties, for they are a kind of portraiture of them. When we first abjured our dependency on the British empire, the party in favor of the House of Orange were opposed; the other party remained silent until France began to move in our favor; after which they were zealously engaged for our independency. To strengthen their own party was a motive of some of their leaders to join in with France to our aid. The juncture was indeed favorable for us, while at the same time it subserved their own design; for a prospect of advantage, by a commercial connection with our States, brought in the mercantile interest of this republic to join issue with the democratical party and announce our independency. The mercantile class begin now to think that they shall not have those treasures of gold from the *American mine* which they expected; consequently they grow cold. The party, opposed to the House of Orange, beginning to imagine that our States will not be wholly detached from Britain in our connections, or, at least, that we shall have as good a correspondence with that kingdom as with France, are disappointed, their design being not answered. The House of Orange, and its friends, (as the reason of their

opposition is removed by the recognition of our independency on the side of Great Britain) will probably be well affected. The Prince and the court are so at present, according to best appearances.

Much, Sir, is said against the Prince of Orange to darken him in the eyes of the wise and virtuous; but, by credible accounts, it is only the calumny of his enemies. Unconnected, as my duty points out, with all parties, I have heard the sentiments of all; & permit me to represent him as a friend to the happiness and welfare of the people. From those who have intimately known him, I believe he is religious and pious. His Princess, who is niece to the King of Prusia, universally sustains a most amiable character.

If I have been impertinent, I know your Excellency's goodness will forgive me. If I have said any thing improper, your abilities will at once detect it; but I know it is safe in the breast of one who has honored me with his friendship.

We beg, Sir, to communicate our very respectful compliments to Col. Williams, his Lady, and the others of your illustrious family.

It is my sincere wish that every personal felicity may continually attend you in your public and eminent station.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obliged, obedient,
and devoted servant,

JOHN WHEELOCK.

His Excellency JOH^{N} TRUMBULL, Esq^{re}, &c. &c. &c.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, June 18th, 1783.

SIR, — I take the liberty of enclosing for your Excellency's perusal several of the last papers published here. Nothing official has been received here from Europe

since I had the honor of addressing your Excellency by Messenger Brown, except a letter from M^r^ Laurence of the 5^th^ of April at London, mentioning the appointment of David Hartley, Esq^r^, in the room of M^r^ Oswald, to finish the American negociations, & that from conversing with several of the new ministry, particularly the Duke of Portland & M^r^ Fox, he was satisfied with their disposition that they should proceed with liberality & dispatch. Another letter of the 23^d^ of April from Doct. Franklin's Secretary, mentioning the arrival of Mr. Hartley in France & that the Doct. was then gone in company with him from Passe to Versailles, and a letter from M^r^ Dana at Petersburgh of the last of Feb^y^, mentioning that he expected it would be two months, according to the dilatory course of such business at that Court, before the commercial treaty with them which he was upon would be finished.

The furlow'd part of the army are on their way home. Some are arrived here from the southward. They receive three months' pay, but all in M^r^ Morris's notes which run six months.

I do not learn, Sir, that any of the Ligislatures this way or to the southward have yet passed upon the plan of revenue proposed by Congress, except those of New Jersey & Maryland, neither of which have as yet adopted it fully. The first having granted the impost as requested but the other funds only for one year; the latter having granted the impost & postponed the rest to another session.

M^r^ Huntington is not yet arrived. I hope he is near at hand & that he has at least one colleague in company with him.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

with great respect, & consideration,

Your Excellency's obed^t^, hum^l^ serv^t^.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

LEBANON, 23d June, 1783.

SIR, — I have the honor of yours of the 4th instant. I depend on Saml Huntington & Benja Huntington, Esqrs, going on to Philadelphia by water the beginning of next week; by them shall send you sixty pounds you requested before and by Colo Dyer.

I expect to call the General Assembly to meet on the second Wednesday of August next at New Haven. In the mean time the Address of Congress with an Appendix, and His Excellency General Washington's circular letter of this month, with a collection of papers on the half pay are printing and will be forthwith dispersed, and I hope will have a good effect to produce a compliance with the requisition of Congress for an impost, — nothing appears to stand in the way but the comutation for half pay. It is of the utmost consequence at this crisis to establish a good national character. I am sensible we are daily suffering from the delay of the States' compliance with the requisition, but moderation, patience, and diligence are requisite. I wish for the Journals of Congress from May, 1782. I have none later.

With sentiments of esteem and regard, I am, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

Honble OLIVER ELSWORTH, Esqr.

Indorsed : 23d June, 1783. To Honble Ol. Elsworth, Esqr p Mr Jesse Brown.

EZRA STILES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Gov̄ Trumbull, Lebanon.

YALE COLLEGE, June 23, 1783.

SIR, — I am greatly obliged and return my hearty thanks for the great & particular pains you have been at

in copying the MS. wherein Gov^r Winthrop exhibits his experiences in the religious & divine life. Beyond any thing I have before seen of his, this gives me a satisfaction of his being a [*illegible*] Christian. And I believe him to be [*illegible*] in glory. I love the experimental piety of the good old Puritan religion of our ancestors. I did not think to have given your Excell^y the trouble of the transcript, as I meant that my pupil shd. have done it; but I do not much wonder that he could not read the copy.*

We will endeav^r to entertain your Excell^y at the session of the Assembly in August; but cannot well accomodate Col^o Williams. In utmost haste, I have the honor to be, Your Excellency's dutiful servant.

Gov. Trumbull. Ezra Stiles.

P. S. One Mr Smith from the Ashford Farms with his wife is here at my house, asking alms or gratuity for 3 twin sons, or rather as M^rs Stiles calls them a Triumvirate, three likely boys, a year & half old, of one birth & of one mother, named *Washington, Trumbull, & Greene* after the Governor & two Generals. A gratuity to them would be an act of benevolence and undoubtedly acceptable to that God of Providence, who has made so prolific a wife & continued 3 handsom, likely sons.

Indorsed: 23^d June, 1783. President Stiles, *de* Gov^r Winthrop's relation of his Xtian Experiences in the divine life. My entertainment, rec^d 26^th mane.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Governor Trumbull.

2^d July, 1783.

Hon Sir, — I send you a Phil^a paper, contain^g the Proclamation of the President for removing Congress from that city to Princeton; the reasons will be principally gained from the Proclamation.

* For some correspondence with regard to Winthrop's History of New England, see the Preface to this volume. — Eds.

The mutineers were of the Pennsylvania troops who were to be discharged on furlough, & who were probably instigated by some superiors to insist on pay & settlement before their discharge. Congress on being insulted applied to the State Executive for protection & support, expecting the militia to be called to quell the riot, but find[g] little or no exertion in the State for the purpose, they took a decided resolution to leave the place where they were subjected to indignity without reparation. The measure has alarmed the city greatly, & the soldiers immediately offered to submit, & impeached some of their officers. Suspicion whispers that some citizens of note have been concerned.

The removal, I hope, will be happy for the Confederation, & I wish that Congress may never return to that seat again. Tis said, all is now quiet in the city, & the soldiers removed.

The Definitive Treaty was not signed on the 18[th] May, but appears to be drawing near a completion.

Congress are unable to proceed in their great national business for want of a full representation. Nine States are necessary & but eight present; this State is without a representation, as well as Connecticut & N. Hampshire, with some southern States, — an unhappy delay.

Your dutifull son,

J. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 2[d] July, 1783. Col[o] Jon[th] Trumbull, J[r], *de* Congress, &c., rec[d] 14[th] inst[t].

OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PRINCETON, July 10[th], 1783.

SIR, — I should have acknowledged the honor of your Excellency's letter of the 23[d] of June by Jesse Brown, of whom I received it, on his return, but he made no stay

here. He will have informed your Excellency of the adjournment of Congress to this place. They were prevented going on with business at Philadelphia by a mutiny in the Pensylvania line, of about 500 men, who had formed there under a board of sergeants for a redress of grievancies, & taken the command of the city & magazine, & once proceeded so far as, with fixed bayonets, to surround the State house in which Congress & the Council of the State were sitting, threatning destruction if their demands were not complied with in 20 minutes. Some officers of a higher rank, as was then supposed & since appears, were at the bottom of the business, two of which are fled. Congress by a Committee, whose report is herewith inclosed, called on President Dickinson & his Council to turn out their militia & suppress the mutiny; but they had not spirit or power enough to do it, or did not think it necessary. After waiting in this scituation some days, & appearances of menace & further violence still continuing, Congress judged it expedient to adjourn to this place, which they did on the 24th of June. Expecting at the same time that their removal out of the reach of the mutineers, with its being known that a detachment of eastern troops was ordered from the main army, might, by convincing them they were to expect coercion instead of compliance, disconsert & disperse them. The expectation was in some measure answered. The detachment from the army is notwithstanding gone forward to disarm such of the mutineers as may not have dispersed, & to bring to trial such of the principal actors as can be apprehended; & also to prevent further disorders upon the arrival of the rest of the Pensylvania line from the southward. How long Congress will remain here is uncertain. They will hardly return to Philadelphia without some assurances of protection, or even then with intention to stay longer than till accomodations shall be elsewhere prepared for a fixed residence. But,

Sir, it will soon be of very little consequence where Congress go, if they are not made respectable as well as responsible, which can never be done without giving them a power to perform engagements as well as make them. It was indeed intended to have given them this power in the confederation, by declaring their contracts & requisitions for the common defence sacredly binding on the States; but in practice it amounts to nothing. Most of the States recognize those contracts & comply with the requisitions so far only as suits their particular opinion & convenience; & they are the more disposed at present to go on in this way from the inequalities it has already produced, & a mistaken idea that the danger is over; not duly reflecting on the calamities of a disunion & anarchy, or their rapid approach to such a state. There must, Sir, be a revenue some how established that can be relied on & applied for national purposes as the exigencies arise, independant of the will or views of a single State, or it will be impossible to support national faith or national existance. The powers of Congress should be defined, but their means must be adequate to the purposes of their institution. It is possible there may be abuses & misapplications; still it is better to hazzard something than to hazzard all.

I am glad to be informed, Sir, the two Mess^rs^ Huntington will be here soon. Business has been much delayed for the want of a sufficient representation.

We hear nothing official concerning the definitive treaty later than by a letter from Doct^r^ Franklin of about the 20^th^ of April. It had been delayd by the tardiness of the Dutch, but more for the want of a British ministry; but was then going on. M^r^ Hartley, who had succeeded M^r^ Oswald, was very acceptable, &, as the Doctor adds, an old acquaintance of his & a lover of peace. Accounts from New York say that an embarkation of the German troops is taking place & that the treaty is to be expected

very soon. The commercial treaty with Sweeden is arrived. Denmark also desires one. The journals requested by your Excellency shall be sent.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's obed^{t}, hum^{l} serv^{t}.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBUL.

Indorsed: 10th July 1783. Hon^{ble} M^{r} Ellsworth, rec^{d} 21st inst. Answered 23^{d}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

10th July, 1783.

HON^{D} SIR, — We have little or no news, no Definitive Treaty yet, and little alteration at N. York.

Congress are doing business, as well as their numbers will admit, at Princeton. The troops are gone on to Phil^{a} to investigate the causes & motives of the mutiny there, and to call to acc^{o} all of military line who may appear to have been concerned in the affair. Gen^{l} Howe commands. I wish the unhappy business may terminate without *ill blood* between Congress & the State; some pettishness I fear on both sides.

Your dutiful son, J. T.

Indorsed: 10th July, 1783. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull, Jr., *de* Congress, rec^{d} 14th inst.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 16th July, 1783.

HON^{D} SIR, — The enclosed is copy of a letter which the General has lately received from a patriotic *Herring Society* in Holland, upon true Dutch principles of interest & commerce. It would seem by its expression, that *you* are also to be presented with a few kegs of this commod-

ity. But the poor money-loving Dutchmen will be greatly disappointed when they are informed that herrings are as plenty in the American rivers as they are on the shores of Scotland. *Lord* Washington has as great a herring fishery at his own door, as in the neighbourhood of Dutchland.

The General is going, in company with Governor Clinton, a tour as far as Tyconderoga & Crownpoint, and up the Mohawk River as far as Fort Schuyler, — a country he has never seen. An Italian Count, who is lately arrived by way curiosity, attends him on the journey. I remain here. The Baron Steuben is going into Canada, to negociate with General Haldimand the necessary arrangements for takᵍ possession of the posts on the northwestern & western frontier boundary, agreable to the articles of the treaty.

I am your dutiful son.

J. Trumbull, Jʳ.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut. Head Quarters, 23ᵈ July.

Head Quarters, 23ᵈ July, 1783.

Honᵇ Sir, — We have a report, in a letter from a member of Congress to the General, that the Definitive Treaty was signed the 27ᵗʰ of May. I wish it may be true; but if so, should it not be here officially by this time? Some corroboration to this report comes from N. York. Colᵒ Smith writes the General that they seem to be setting about the business of evacuation in more serious earnest than he has ever observed before. About 3000 foreign troops are sailed lately, with a large embarkation of Tories, &c., to N. Scotia & Canada, with about 1000 negroes. The report we have of the Definitive Treaty says that it stipulates that N. York is to

be evacuated by the 15th of August. But this time seems to be too near at hand, & the business not in sufficient forwardness.

Your most dutifull son. J. T.

Indorsed: 23d July, 1783. Colo Jonth Trumbull, Jun, *de* definitive Treaty.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Princetown, July 30th, 1783.

Sir, — We arrived here on the 28th instant after a passage of three days only from New London Light House. We made no stay at New York; the Stage Boat being directly bound to Elizabethtown, we took passage to that place & from thence in the stage by land.

Congress have sildom been able to make a House for some time passd, but on the 29th had the attendance of nine States, at which time the Treaty of Amity & Commerce with the King of Sweeden for fifteen years, and in the same terms of that with the United Provinces, was ratified.

The Definitive Treaty of Peace is not yet come to Congress, but is said to be signed on the 27th of May, and arrived at New-York in the ship Mercury, & is supposed to be retained by Genl Carleton; (if so) it cannot be long concealed.

The finances of the United States are exceeding low & distressing, & will be so untill the States are better united in public measures.

We are, with the greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, huml servts.

Sam. Huntington.
Benj. Huntington.

His Excy Govr Trumbull.

Indorsed: 30th July, 1783. Honble S. & B. Huntington, *de* their arrival, 9 States represent. King of Sweden. Finance, &c., recd 5th Aug. seq. p Messenger Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 30th July, 1783.

HONᴰ SIR, — General Huntington handed me your favor of last week, with the *address, &c.*, which I hope may prove beneficial for the information of the people. The postponing the meeting of the Assembly, I think very prudent & judicious, for reasons mentioned.

The Mercury frigate, which was to bring the Definitive Treaty, is arrived, but nothing transpires from her yet, tho many *rumours* are propagating. Sir Guy has something in view in keeping her dispaches close, and the ship is kept lying at *the Hook*. It is said there are more appearances of evacuation in N. York than ever.

The General is not yet returned from his tour, — expect him in a few days. Mʳˢ Washington is unwell with ague & fever, which keeps us much confined. I intend home in next month, definitive or no definitive.

The inclosed paper will shew you the sentiments of people in this State.

Your dutifull son.

J. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 30th July, 1783. Colo Jonth Trumbull, Jun., *de* Mercury Frigate, &c., recd 4th Aug. seq.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON AND SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PRINCETON, July 31st, 1783.

SIR, — Since our letter of yesterday we find that Genl Carleton hath lately transmitted to Congress an account of the proceedings had in New York in discovering and detecting certain persons concern'd in counterfeiting Morris's notes, &c.

By perusing these papers we find that it appeared on examination considerable quantities of the paper bills of Connecticutt have been counterfeited & pass^{d}.

Alltho' we cannot learn the distinguishing characters in the counterfeits, or the particular dates or denomination of bills that have been counterfeited, yet we have thought it expedient to give the earliest information of this matter.

The names of the persons detected & confiñd are
William May — Connecticutt.
John Power — N. York, copper plate printer.
Dennis Flynn — an Irishman, lately from Massachusetts.
Sylvanus Lyon — Woodstock, Connecticutt.
William Nichols — Waterbury do
(since 1776 in N. York)
Lemuel Nichols — late from Waterbury.

We are, with perfect esteem and respect,
Your Ex^{ys} humble serv^{ts}.
SAM. HUNTINGTON.
BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 31st July, 1783. Hon^{ble} S. & B. Huntington, *de* Counterfeits, rec^{d} 5th Aug^{t}, seq., p Messenger Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 6th Augst, 1783.

HON^{D} SIR, — I cant yet obtain the Definitive Treaty. I have, however, from good authority that orders bro't by the Mercury are tantamount to it; that the city will be soon evacuated & the troops withdrawn; their movements are now conformable to their orders, & the business is going on with all the dispatch their means will admit. The General not returned at writing this; we are in

hourly expectation of him. Mrs Washington is still unwell.

I am, most dutifully,

Your son.

Gov Trumbull. J. Trumbull.

Indorsed: 6th Augst, 1783. Colo Jonth Trumbull, Junr, *de* Definitive, &c., recd 11th inst.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Connecticut. — Head Quarters, 13th Augst.

13th Augst, 1783.

Hond Sir, — We are exceedingly barren of news, and almost of business; no Definitive Treaty yet. After a short time, makg preparations for the security of the upper & western posts, getting forward stores, & formg arrangements for their garrisons, I fancy the General will leave this on his way southward.

I expect to be at home in a little time.

Your most dutifull son,

J. Trumbull, Jr.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Princeton, Septr 2d, 1783.

Sir, — We had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 23d of August & observed the contents. We have no important news of late from abroad and but little at home.

Several weighty matters are in agitation in Congress, and but slow progress made. Seldom more than seven or eight States assembled, and one or two dissenting voices are fatal to all proceedings.

The States of New Jersy & Mariland have granted the five p^{r} cent duty on importation. Pennsylvania have done the same, and instructed their delegates to subscribe the proposed alteration in the confederation. They have also desired the return of Congress to their capital, and promised to enable their Executive Council to afford a desired protection in their State, untill the place of permanent residence of Congress shall be fixed.

The Massachusetts have addressed Congress on the subject of the commutation and high salleries as obstacles in the way of a compliance on their part with the requisition of an impost, whilst they and Rhode Island are collecting duties on trade in their own way, and applying the monies so raised to the payment of their own quotas. The burthen of this being sustained by the consumer must be eventually borne by the industerous inhabitants of our State, in proportion to the goods we purchase from them, whilst we have our whole quota to pay without an equal advantage of a tax upon commerce. This naturally suggests to us the necessity of promoting trade in our own State, and withdrawing it from those States whose policy is as much as possible to lay their burthens on us. This also is a striking proof of the equitable nature of a general impost, and of the injustice that will take place in consequence of the local and illiberal measures that will be adopted by the several States in their separate proceedings, tending to disaffection, animosity, and disunion.

That the superintending power of Divine government over the affairs of men cannot be baffled by designing mortals is a most consoling truth to the confident heart.

We shall be at the Assembly before the session ends in Octo^{r}, if our attendance here can be dispensed with.

We are, most respectfully and with the highest esteem,

Your Excellency's most humble servants.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

His Ex^{cy} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PRINCETON, Octo 5th, 1783.

SIR, — We have been honourd with your Excellency's favour of the 22d ultº by Messenger Brown.

Since our last we have receivd little intelligence from Europe until of late; letters from our Ministers at the Court of Versailles have arrivd, which inform, the Definitive Treaty was not then closed, viz. July 28th. One cause of the delay is supposd to be that avidity with which the people of these United States have rushed into trade with the Brittish in all places where commerce invited, both in Europe & America.

The Brittish Ministry discover, & do not dissemble to mention, that there is no power lodged in Congress or in any national body for regulating commerce; they are not disposd at present to form any treaty respecting trade, but imagine they shall derive greater advantages in trade from the several States without any national treaty than with. It is not therefore improbable that the preliminaries of peace may be the arti[c]les that will be finally rattified with respect to the United States, in the conclusion of the treaties with the other belligerent powers.

Our Ministers give it as their decided opinion that by the preliminary articles, hostilities were to cease in the American seas north of the latitude of the Canaries in one month from their rattification.

Congress have resolved to put a stop to all further loans in Europe, a measure we judge not only expedient but absolutely necessary.

This State as also Pennsylvania have addopted the recommendation of Congress; we have enclosd the Act of the latter on that subject.

Congress have allso come to a conclusion to accept

the cession made by Virginia, under certain alterations as contain[d] in the enclos[d] report.

Several other matters are now under consideration, & will, we hope, be so far determined as may speedily enable us to give your Excellency further information.

We are, with the most perfect respect & esteem,

Your Exc[y's] humb[l] serv[ts],

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

Gov[r] TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 5[th] Oct[o], 1783. Hon[ble] S. & B. Huntington, *de* several affairs, rec[d] 9[th] inst.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON AND BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PRINCETON, Octo[r] 9[th], 1783.

SIR, — In the course of a few weeks past Congress have receiv[d] letters from our Ministers in Europe, some of them dated as late as the 18[th] July.

We have enclos[d] a copy of one from M[r] Adams and extracts from several others.

Tho' we think it our indispensible duty to lay this intelligence before your Excellency for the information of the Legislature, yet you will readily perceive the great impropriety of suffering it by any means to get into the public papers.

No intelligence of the completion of the definitive treaty; & from the latest information it seems, if our ministers had not wisely seized the critical moment during Lord Shelburne's administration, very uncertain whether hostilities would have ceased at this day, alltho' it is propable our enemies have no design to renew them immediately. Congress are taking measures to reduce the national expence as much as possible, by disbanding

the remainder of the army, reducing the number of our Ministers in Europe, discharging all supernumeraries on the civil list, & curtailing the salaries of those that remain in time of peace; a committee are appointed for those purposes which have made some progress in the business, but the army cannot be disbanded while the Brittish remain in New York, & the safety of the nation renders it absolutely necessary to have a suitable number of troops ready to take possession of the present Brittish garrisons which fall within our limits at the moment they are evacuated by the Brittish, as Detroit, Niagara, Oswego, & near Cadaraqui, & Penobscott, &c., the last of which, it is reported, is allready evacuated, & that the Brittish are attempting encroachments from Nova Scotia on this side S^{t} Croix.

You have been allready inform^{d} that a Treaty of Amity & Commerce with Sweeden is ratified. The Emperor of Germany, the Courts of Denmark, Prusia, Portugal, Grand Duke of Tuscany, Spain, the imperial free city of Hamburg, & indeed allmost all the powers of Europe, have signified their desire to form treaties of amity & commerce with these United States. It is thought by our ministers in Europe, and perhaps by all wise politions, of much importance to close with these offers upon terms of mutual reciprocity & thereby make it the interest of all to support us, & render us less dependant on any one of them.

The King of France in February last engaged to advance for the United States six millions of livres, & generously remitted the interest until the first of January 1784, as he had before done with all his former loans, until the expiration of the war, but we are now requested to inform what effectual measures have been taken or are taking to pay the interest in future & refund the principal in a reasonable time; to attempt an honorable a[n]swer to this question is truly mortifying to a generous

mind; you will see Doc^{r} Franklin's sentiments, in the extract enclos^{d}.

Last Tuesday came on the important question for fixing a place for the seat of Congress; after a deliberate discussion the competition appear^{d} to be between two places, the banks of the Pawtomac near Georgetown, and the banks of the Deleware near Trenton; the determination is in favour of the latter, but not with that unanimity that could be wished; whither this determination will be found so agreable as ultimately to give satisfaction & effectually ascertain the residence of Congress, time will discover.

As neither of us thought of staying any longer than the present year when we came from home, we are not possess^{d} of the Act of Assembly appointing delegates for the ensuing year; it will therefore be necessary for delegates to come forward with their credentials for the next year, or leave the State unrepresented.

Congress have been employ^{d} some time in preparing matters for a treaty with the late hostile tribes of Indians, in order, among other things, to settle a line or boundary for them & prepare the way to dispose of some of the western lands, & by that means discharge a part of the national debt; when this business is finished it will be communicated to your Excellency.

We are disappointed in our hopes of a recess of Congress during this autumn; the unexpected delay of the definitive treaty & the important matters depending on that event render it alltogether unsafe for Congress to adjourn at present, and as full a representation as may be seems necessary.

We have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Your most obedient, humble servants.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

BENJ. HUNTINGTON.

His Ex^{y} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PRINCETON, Octo^r 16^th^, 1783.

SIR, — Since the last joint address from myself and collegue, nothing very remarkable hath occur^d^.

Mr Van Berkel, the Dutch ambassador, after a long passage is at length arriv^d^ in Philadelphia, but hath made no communication to Congress respecting his mission.

I do myself the honour herewith to transmit your Excellency by the bearer, M^r^ John Franklin, two vollumes of the Journals of Congress for the current year as far as they are published; also duplicates of a list of the officers in the Executive Departments under Congress.

The office of Secretary for Forreign Affairs is now entirely vacant; the Marine Department almost vacant, & will probably be wholly abollished; & the War Department allow^d^ only one officer, and the expence diminished more than half by a late report of Committee for that purpose.

By the best intelligence from New York, which is in some measure authentic, it seems probable the Brittish expect wholly to evacuate their posts at that place & its vicinity in the month of Novem^r^. Their long delay hath made Congress cautious of disbanding the Continental army, but it is hoped the period is not far off when further expence on that account may be prevented.

The instructions relative to treaty with the Indians (mentioned in our last) is allmost finished.

I expect to leave Congress the last of this month, should have set out sooner in order to meet the Assembly before their recess, but am reluctant to leave some important matters now depending.

I have the honour to be, with perfect esteem & regard,

Your Exc^y's^ humble servant.

GOV^r^ TRUMBULL. SAM. HUNTINGTON.

Indorsed: 16^th^ Oct^o^, 1783. Hon^ble^ Sam. Huntington, *de* sundry, rec^d^ at N. Haven.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency the Governor of Connecticutt, now at New Haven.

PRINCETON, Octo^{r} 22^{d}, 1783.

SIR, — Congress have recommended to the United States to set apart the *second Thursday* in Decem^{r} as a day of publick thanksgiving.

They have also resolved that in future two places be prepared for the residence of Congress, viz., at or near Trenton on the Deleware & at or near Georgetown on the Patowmac, & until accomodations are provided necessary for the purpose, to set alternately at Trenton in Jersey & at Anapolis in Maryland, & in consequence have agreed, on the 10th of Novem^{r} to adjourn from this place to meet at Anapolis on the 25th of the same month, & to set at each place not more than one year, nor less than six months, if public business shall require so long a session in the year.

This plan hath been adopted after mature consideration of a variety of circumstances, too tedious to be fully enumerated.

The appointment of the only place for their residence at or near Trenton did not give satisfaction, and for want of present accomodations it seemed necessary to remove to some other place for their session the ensuing winter, & was thought essential for the public welfare by most of the delegates to avoid the city of Philadelphia, & all other large trading cities in future, & in this sentiment we presume our constituents fully coincide.

After all, time & experience will best determine upon the wisdom & utility of the measure.

I have the honour, to be with the highest respect,

Your Ex$^{y's}$ humble serv^{t}.

SAM. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency the Gov^{r} of Connecticutt.

Indorsed: 22nd Oct^{o}, 1783. Hon^{ble} Sam^{l} Huntington, *de* sundry, rec^{d} N. Haven, 1st Nov^{r} seq.

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